

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY
GUARDIAN

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35TH Annual Edition

Brian Parr

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009: INTRO



By **Marke B.**
marke@sfbg.com

Welcome to the San Francisco *Bay Guardian's* Best of the Bay 2009! This is our 35th annual celebration of the people, places, and things that make living here such a ridiculous joy, a behemoth shout-out to everything Bay-you-tiful — from Best Jazz Club and Best Asian Restaurant to Best Burlesque Act and beyond.

As usual when putting this tribute together, we couldn't help thinking about how the Bay has changed, yet how resilient its remarkable denizens have remained. Times are rocky, y'all. Local businesses, charitable nonprofits, and arts institutions — already the "little guys" fighting against the onslaught of big-box blandness, intellectual dumbing-down, and commercial cynicism — are more endangered than ever. And we don't need to tell you that stretching a dollar has become a whole new exercise regimen. We call it "subprime yoga." Look for our infomercial on the HGN network.

But economic reality can't quash our native creative spark. That ebullient Bay ingenuity bubbles up no matter what — evidenced in the recent gourmet food cart, street fair, and spontaneous party explosions. You can find someone "doing their thing" on almost every street corner these days, and local businesses are pulling out the stops in terms of specials, outreach, and overall friendliness. Forget those odiously snobbish buzzwords like "staycation" and "funemployment" — for anyone but the still rich, the current squeeze is nothing to laugh about. But in typical Bay Area spirit, citizens are ingeniously rediscovering all the vast, affordable pleasures available to us in our own shared backyard, embarking on a journey of rediscovery, relishing the comforts of home with renewed vigor and determination.

The *Guardian* has been celebrating that special brand of dynamism for years. In 1974 *Esquire* asked us for ideas for its Best of the U.S.A. issue, and we responded by publishing the original Best of the Bay. Made by the people of the Bay Area for the people of the Bay Area, it's our annual chance to celebrate the people and places that make this city great. We were the first weekly paper to print a regular "best of" issue.

“
The perfect journey is
no need to go ...

A. R. Ammons, *The Snow Poems*

”
Thirty-five years on — and 43 years after we opened our doors — we're still going strong.

Inside this issue you'll find the results of our Readers Poll — more than 8,000 people voted this year, and there were a few surprise upsets in some of the categories. Also within are our Editors Picks, where we shine a little light of recognition into some of the bay's more brilliant corners. And our Local Heroes single out people and organizations that inspire awe and remind us that we can all work to make the world a better place.

Editing this year's installment was something no one could possibly do alone. I had the extreme privilege of working with the marvelous *Guardian* staff and an amazing smorgasbord of local talent to get 2009's Best of the Bay out the conceptual door.

I shower grateful smooches on them all, especially my right-hand cheese puff Molly Freedenberg, creative wizard Mirissa Neff, amazing illustrator Barbara Pollak, our steadfast advertisers, and the ever-supportive Hunky Beau, my own personal Best of the Bay.

But most of all we thank you, dear reader, for pouring your unique pluck and zing into this great community, for keeping the doors of hope open, and for never forging ahead in the quest to keep the Bay an incredible place to live. Happy trails! **SFBG**

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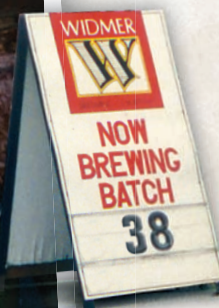
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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Barbara Pollak's colorful, whimsical depictions of people and objects have been featured in publications including *Seventeen* and *Time*, in various games, and in her children's book *Our Community Garden* (Beyond Words, 2004). When not creating a line of personalized wall art for kids or contributing images to the *Guardian*, she enjoys traveling, collecting Japanese fashion magazines and '70s kitsch art, making toys, and cooking at her home in Potrero Hill, where she lives with her husband, two young children, a cat, and some resilient tropical fish. You can see more work on her Web site at www.happypix.com.



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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

LOCAL HERO

ANGELA CHAN

By Sarah Phelan

As staff attorney at the Asian Law Caucus, Angela Chan has been at the forefront of a yearlong effort to ensure that all undocumented juveniles have the right to due process in San Francisco.

That effort began last summer, shortly after Mayor Gavin Newsom, who had just decided to run for governor, announced that undocumented juveniles henceforth would be reported to federal authorities the minute they are booked on suspicion of having committed a felony — and before they can access an immigrant-rights lawyer.

These changes primarily affect Latino youth, but Chan, whose Cantonese-speaking parents ran a restaurant in Portland, Ore., sees the broader connections to other immigrant communities.

“I grew up in an immigrant community in a white working-class neighborhood,” Chan explained. “I saw the barriers — language, culture, racism, xenophobia — and I realized that there was not a lot of power and awareness. I

learned to appreciate civil rights.”

As a teenager, Chan was determined to become an attorney. The temporary passage of California Prop. 187 — prohibiting undocumented immigrants from using social services, health care, and public education — intensified her determination. Chan graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School, and has been able to focus on this particular juvenile justice battle thanks to a Soros Justice Fellowship and the ALC’s “innovative, fluid, creative, and client-centered vision.”

“I’ve tried different ways of challenging inequality — direct confrontation, anger — but I’ve found the best way is through policy, and being very educated and strategic,” Chan said.

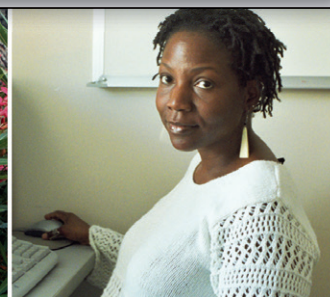
She said she’s hopeful that Sup. David Campos has the votes this summer to pass veto-proof amendments to the city’s undocumented-youth protection policy. As she put it: “People are starting to understand the difference between the juvenile and adult justice system and the issues around due process.” **SFBG**

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

LOCAL HERO

JULIAN DAVIS

By Tim Redmond

Take a look at just a few of the things Julian Davis has done: He ran the 2008 public-power campaign. He's on the board of San Francisco Tomorrow. He's president of the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center. He's a founder of the MoMagic Collaborative, which fights youth violence in the Western Addition. He's on the board of the San Francisco Housing Development Corporation. He's been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Market-Octavia Citizens Advisory Committee. He's a founder of the Osiris Coalition, which is working to ensure that public-housing tenants have the right to return to their homes after renovations. He's hosted countless events for charities and political campaigns.

Then think about this: he's only 30.

Davis grew up in Palo Alto, and moved to the corner of Haight and Fillmore after getting bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy from Brown University. Philosophers weren't exactly in demand at the time, so he wound up "playing my guitar on the streets for burrito money" while starting a PhD program at Stanford.

He also saw three people shot to death on his corner. "And I realized," he explained, "that the academic life wasn't going to be for me."

Davis started organizing against community violence, and, inspired by Matt Gonzalez's mayoral campaign, ran for supervisor in 2004. That got him started in local politics. He's headed to law school at Hastings this fall, and it's a safe bet that he'll be a leader in the progressive political community for years to come. **SFBG**

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



The Moment Has Come

Could the current world crisis be the tipping point for transformation?

People everywhere are awakening to the reality that the old ways of greed and competition no longer work. The times demand an entirely new approach.

This is the moment awaited by Maitreya, the World Teacher, for his public emergence, says Benjamin Creme. Maitreya is a colossal cosmic avatar with limitless love and immeasurable wisdom, and at the same time is a friend and brother of humanity.

He and his group of enlightened teachers, the Masters of Wisdom, are returning to the everyday world to help us solve our most critical global problems.

They are here to inspire us to create a new civilization based on sharing and justice, so that all may have the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, health care, and education.

Look for a star-like luminary of brilliant power, visible in the sky night and day, as a sign that their open mission is about to begin.



Benjamin Creme is an author, artist and chief editor of *Share International* magazine

Info: (510) 841-3738
www.SharingForPeace.org

Maitreya's words speak directly to us:

"The problems of mankind are real but solvable. The solution lies within your grasp. Take your brother's need as the measure for your action and solve the problems of the world.

There is no other course."

**A Talk by Benjamin Creme
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— Gustav Niebuhr, *The New York Times*

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

LOCAL HERO

DAVID SCHOOLEY

By Sarah Phelan

"He's a visionary. He's very determined. He never gives up."

That's how Ken McIntire, executive director of San Bruno Mountain Watch, describes David Schooley, who founded the Mountain Watch non-profit four decades ago.

"For many years, David led every Sierra Club hike, organized every restoration party, and even took the bus to community fairs up and down the Peninsula so he could set up a table and distribute fliers about San Bruno Mountain," McIntire recalls.

Now snowy-haired and allegedly semiretired, Schooley, 65, remains as nimble as a goat when it comes to hiking across his beloved mountain, which rises and cuts across the Peninsula just south of San Francisco in San Mateo County — and whose ecosystem has been identified as one of 18 global biodiversity hotspots in need of protection.

Schooley's love for the mountain — which is covered with low-growing grasses, coastal sage, and scrub year-round and is dotted with wildflowers each spring — led him to found SBMW in 1969 and fight the expansion of the Guadalupe Valley Quarry and the growth of nearby Brisbane. Both

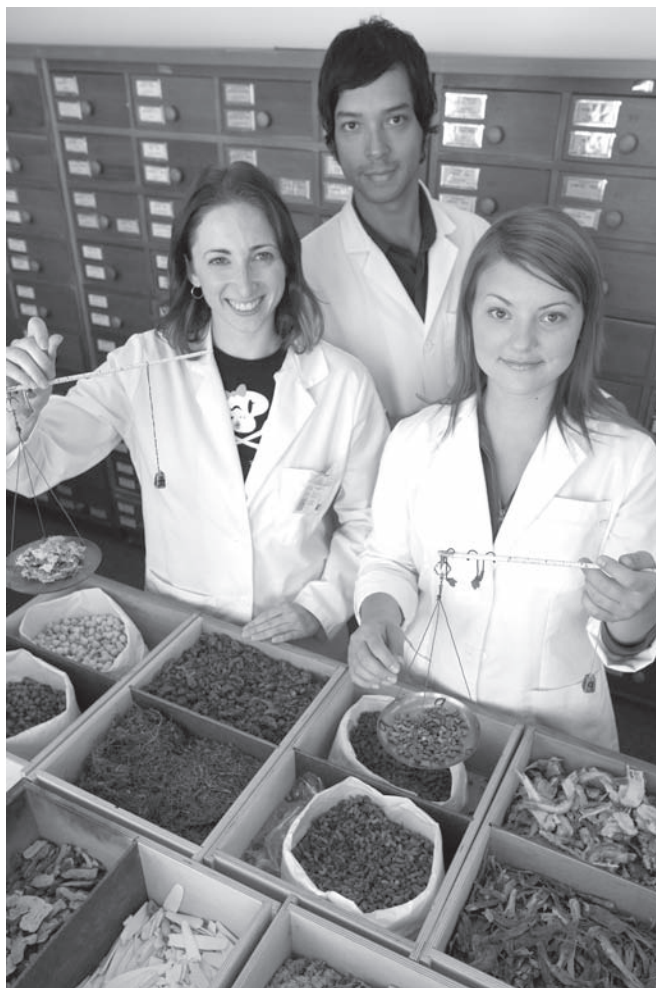
were threatening to destroy the biggest urban open space in the United States and the habitat of rare butterflies, including the San Bruno elfin.

As Schooley explains, while the mountain is often hit with strong gusty winds and enveloped in thick fog, it is a great butterfly habitat and the last fragment of an entire ecosystem — the Franciscan region — the rest of which has been buried beneath San Francisco's concrete footprints.

Two years ago, Schooley had the pleasure of once again finding the tiny raspberry-colored elfin caterpillars on some sedum (its host plant) on the north-facing upper benches of the quarry.

"It's a miracle," Schooley told me at the time, delighted by this living example of nature's ability to overcome human-made damage on the mountain.

At the time, Schooley was hoping the state park system would annex the property where the elfins were found. That hasn't happened yet. But as McIntire says of Schooley (who dreams of a wildlife corridor that runs from the bay to the ocean), "David is always pushing for more open space around the mountain, for more nature and less development, and trying to reach a bigger audience." **SFBG**



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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

LOCAL HERO

SAN FRANCISCO

MIME TROUPE

By Steven T. Jones

The San Francisco Mime Troupe is the conscience of the city, our proudest export, and — as it celebrates its 50th year — perhaps our most enduring sociopolitical institution. That's a lot of kudos to heap on an artists' collective, particularly one that delivers its theatrical social satire with such over-the-top comedy and music, but it isn't a statement that we make lightly.

The SFMT embodies the very best San Francisco values — limitless creativity, a hunger for justice, courage under fire, an uncompromising commitment to creating a better world, and a progressive missionary zeal — and offers a powerful and entertaining reminder of those values every July 4, when it presents its new show in Dolores Park.

After it sings (and preaches) to the progres-

sive choir of San Francisco, the troupe hits the road, visiting such less-than-enlightened outposts as the Central Valley and rural Northern California, delivering important messages to audiences that need to hear them most. "First of all, it's humorous, so that breaks down a lot of barriers from the get-go," SFMT general manager Jenée Gill tells us.

But even here in the early '60s, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission tried to use obscenity laws to ban the SFMT from performing in public parks. The troupe successfully fought the commission in court, setting an important free speech precedent. Modern San Francisco has grown up with the SFMT showing us the way forward with its uniquely high-stepping, knee-slapping, consciousness-raising style, and we're a better city for it. **SFBG**

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY PAT MAZZERA



The San Francisco Mime Troupe, left to right bottom row: Velina Brown (actor), Karen Runk (stage manager), Adrian C. Mejia (actor), Lisa Hori-Garcia (actor) with Flower the dog, Junelle Taguas (stage management intern). Left to right top row: James Mitchell (musician), Aharon Wheels Bolsta (musician), Will McCandless (sound engineer), BW Gonzalez (actor), Pat Moran (musician) Ed Holmes (actor), Michael Gene Sullivan (storyteller).



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CLASSICS



San Francisco Ballet

Boris Poln

BEST OF THE BAY 2009: READERS POLL

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EDITORS PICKS

BEST LEFTOVER HEROES

Hey, are you gonna eat that? If the answer is "no," and you have a commercial kitchen of any kind, call **Food Runners**, the nonprofit associated with Tante Marie's Cooking School and its matriarch at the helm, Mary Risley. The volunteer-powered organization picks up leftovers from caterers, delis, festival vendors, hotels, farmers

markets, cafeterias, restaurants, and elsewhere, and delivers still-fresh edibles to about 300 soup kitchens and homeless shelters. For more than 30 years, everything from fresh and frozen foods such as produce, meat, and dairy, to uneaten boxed lunches and trays of salads and hot food, to pantry staples ordered overzealously and nearing expiration has been saved from the compost heap and delivered to those who could use a free meal or some gratis groceries. The result has

yielded untold thousands of meals and a complete cycle that reduces food waste, feeds the hungry, and preserves resources all around.

(415) 929-1866, www.foodrunners.org

BEST DARKEST KISS

Remember those freaky goth kids your church leaders warned you against in high school? The ones who wore black lipstick, shaved off all their eyebrows, and worshipped Darkness? Well, they grew up, moved to San Francisco, and got really effin' hot. If you don't believe it, head to the comfortably named **Death Guild** party at DNA Lounge. Every Monday night, San Francisco's sexiest goths (and baby goths — this party is 18+) climb out of their coffins and don their snazziest black vinyl bondage pants for this beastly bacchanal, which has decorated our nightlife with leather corsets and studded belts since 1992. And even if you dress more like Humbert Humbert than Gothic Lolita, the Guild's resident DJs will have you industrial-grinding to Sisters of Mercy, Front 242, Bauhaus, Throbbing Gristle, and Ministry. Death Guild's Web site advises: "Bring a dead stiff squirrel and get in free." Free for you, maybe, but not for the squirrel. Mondays, 9:30 p.m., \$5. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St., SF. (415) 626-1409. www.deathguild.com

BEST BLACKBOARD THESPIANS

A completely adorable acting troupe made up of schoolteachers and schoolteacher look-alikes, the **Children's Theatre Association of San Francisco**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16 »

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



Best First Cup of Coffee: Caffè Trieste

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Friday Nights at the de Young is supported by the Koret Foundation. Friday Nights at the de Young is part of FAMSF's Cultural Encounters initiative generously funded by The James Irvine Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Columbia Foundation, and the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation.

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CLASSICS CONT.

— a cooperative project of the Junior League of San Francisco, the San Francisco Board of Education, and the San Francisco Opera and Ballet companies — has been stomping the boards for 75 years. What the players may lack in Broadway-caliber showmanship, they widely make up for with enthusiasm, handcrafted costumes and sets, and heart. For decades, the troupe has entertained thousands of public school students during its seasonal run every January and February at the Florence Gould Theater in the Palace of Legion of Honor. This year's production was a zany take on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which included a wisecracking mirror and rousing original songs. We applaud the CTASF's bravery for taking on some of the toughest critics in the business — those who will squirm and squawk if the show can't hold their eye. www.ctasf.org

BEST AUTO REPAIR QUOTES

We're not sure if you can get a lube job at Kahn and Keville Tire and Auto Service, located on the moderately sketchy corner of Turk and Larkin. And if you can, we can't vouch for the overall quality, or relative price point of the procedure. But the main reason we can't say is also why we love the place so much. Instead of sensibly using the giant **Kahn and Keville marquee** to advertise its sales and services, the 97-year-old business has been using it since 1959 to educate the community with an array of quotations culled from authors as varied as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Gore Vidal — plus occasional shout-outs to groups it admires, such as the Quakers during their peace vigils a block away. Originally collected by founder Hugh Keville, the quotes range in tone from the political to the inspirational and

“

I wish people could look beyond their prejudices and see that the Tenderloin is a unique and vibrant neighborhood.

James, Tenderloin

”

tongue-in-cheek, and the eye-catching marquee was once described by Herb Caen as the city's "biggest fortune cookie."

500 Turk, SF. (415) 673-0200, www.kk1912.com

BEST EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE

The cozy Molinari Delicatessen in North Beach has been in business since 1896, just enough time to figure out that the secret to a really kick-ass sandwich is keeping it simple — but not too simple. The little piece of heaven known as the **Molinari Special** starts with tasty scraps, all the odds and ends of salamis, hams, and mortadella left over from the less adventurous sandwiches ordered by the customers who came before you. The cheese of your choice comes next, topped generously with lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, roasted red peppers, and even pepperoncini, if you ask nicely. As for bread: we're partial to Dutch crunch, but rosemary, soft white, and seeded rolls are available. *Ecco panino*: you get a sandwich approximately as big as a baby's head — for only \$6.25. It's never quite the same item twice, but always sublime. Molinari Delicatessen, 373 Columbus, SF. (415) 421-2337

BEST PASSED-ON JEANS

Most clothes turn to garbage over time — but there are a few notable exceptions, timeless garments that actually gain value after being used up, tossed aside, and then rediscovered. Leather jackets are like that, so are cowgirl dresses and butt rock T-shirts. But none of that stuff maintains its integrity, or becomes more appealing when salvaged, like a great pair of jeans. And there's no place more in tune with this concept than the Bay Area. Why? Well, it's easy to say that we lead the thrifting pack simply because denim apparel was born here, but the truth is that we wouldn't be anywhere without Berkeley's denim guru, Carla Bell, who's been reselling Levi's and other denim products for 30 years. What began as a side project in Bell's garage has grown into a palace of fine thrifting: **Slash Denim** the first and last stop when it comes to pre-worn pants and other new and used articles of awesome. 2840 College, Berk. (510) 841-7803, www.slashdenim.com

BEST BALLER'S PARADISE

When you think about baseball and food, hot dogs inevitably come to mind, but that's just because marketers have been pumping them at stadiums for decades. Real baseball fans can see through the bull. Sure, they might shove a wiener in

their mouth every now and again out of respect for tradition. But when a true fan gets hungry, she or he wants real food, not mystery meat. Baseball-themed restaurant and bar **Double Play** — which sits across from the former site of Seals Stadium and is celebrating its 100th birthday this year — makes a point of thinking outside the bun. D.P.'s menu features everything from pancakes and burritos to seafood fettuccine and steak, with nary a dog in sight. Otherwise, the place is as hardcore balling as it gets. Ancient memorabilia decks the walls, television sets hang from the ceiling, and the backroom contains a huge mural depicting a Seals versus Oakland Oaks game — you can eat lunch on home plate. 2401 16th St., SF. (415) 621-9859

BEST TSUNAMI OF SWEETS

Most small businesses fail within the first year of operation, so you know if a spot's been around a while it must be doing something right. For **Schubert's Bakery** that something is cakes and they've been doing them for almost 100 years. To say they're the best, then, is a bit of an understatement. When you purchase a cake from the sweet staff at Schubert's, what you're really getting is 98 years' worth of cake-making wisdom brought to life with eggs, sugar, flour, and some good old S.F. magic. Schubert's doesn't stop with cakes — no way. There are cherry and apple tarts, pies, coffee cakes, Danish pastries, croissants, puff pastries, scones, muffins, and more. If it's sinfully delicious, Schubert's has your back. Just be careful not to peruse their menu in the aftermath of a breakup or following the loss of a job. Schubert's may seem nice and sugary on the outside, but it gets a sick thrill out of sticking you where it hurts: your gut. 521 Clement, SF. (415) 752-1580, www.schuberts-bakery.com

BEST ARCHITECTURAL XANADU

If you compete in a category where you're the only contestant, does it still matter if you win? In the case of the **Xanadu Gallery building**, yes, it does. The building that houses the gallery is Frank Lloyd Wright's only work in San Francisco and provides a fascinating glimpse of him evolving into a legendary architect. The structure's most prominent feature is the spiral ramp connecting its two floors, a surprisingly organic structure that reminds viewers of the cochlear rotunda of a seashell and presages Wright's famous design for New York's Guggenheim Museum. Visitors are delighted and surprised upon

entering the Maiden Lane building, as a rather small and cramped walkway into the gallery expands into an airy, sun-filled dome: the effect is like walking out from a dark tunnel into a puff of light. The Xanadu Gallery itself features an extensive collection of international antiquities, which perfectly complements this ambitious yet classic gem.

140 Maiden Lane, SF. (415) 392-9999, www.xanadugallery.us

BEST FIRST CUP OF COFFEE

As the poor departed King of Pop would say, "Just beat it" — to ultimate Beat hangout **Caffe Trieste** in North beach, that is. And while Pepsi was the caffeinated beverage that set Michael Jackson aflame, we're hot for Trieste's lovingly created coffee drinks. Founded in 1956 by Giovanni "Papa Gianni" Giotta, who had recently moved here from Italy, Trieste was the first place in our then low-energy burg to offer espresso, fueling many a late night poetry session, snaps and bongos included. Still a favored haunt of artists and writers, Trieste — which claims to be the oldest coffeehouse in San Francisco — augments the strident personal dramas of its Beat ghosts with generous helpings of live opera, jazz, and Italian folk music. You may even catch a member of the lively Giotta family crooning at the mic, or pumping a flashy accordion as part of Trieste's long-running Thursday night or Saturday afternoon concert series. Trieste just opened a satellite café in the mid-Market Street area, which could use a tasty artistic renaissance of its own. 601 Vallejo, SF. (415) 392-6739; 1667 Market, SF. (415) 551-1000, www.caffetrieste.com



BEST ON POINT EN POINTE

We're fans of the entire range of incredible dance offerings in the Bay, from new and struggling companies to the older, more established ones (which are also perpetually struggling.) But we've got to give tutu thumbs up to the **San Francisco Ballet** for making it for 76 years and still inspiring the city to get up on its toes and applaud. Those who think the SF Ballet is hopelessly encrusted in fustiness have overlooked its contemporary choreography programs as well as its outreach to the young and queer via its Nite Out! events. For those who complain about the price of tickets, check out the ballet's free performance at Stern Grove Aug. 16. This year the company brought down the house when it performed Balanchine's "Jewels" (a repertory mainstay) in New York. We also have to give it up for one of the most important (yet taken for granted) element of the ballet's productions: the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, which provides the entrancing accompaniment to the oldest ballet company in America. www.sfballet.org

BEST INTENTIONAL MISNOMER

If the **Spinsters of San Francisco** have anything to say about it, spinsterhood isn't the realm of old women who cultivate cat tribes and emit billows of dust when they sneeze. Instead it's all about stylish young girls who throw sparkling galas, plan happy hours, organize potlucks, and do everything in their power to have a grand ol' time in the name of charitable good. Founded alongside

CONTINUES ON PAGE 18 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

CLASSICS CONT.

the Bachelors of San Francisco, the Spinsters first meeting was held in 1929. In the eight decades that followed, the Spinsters evolved into a philanthropic nonprofit that supports aid organizations and channels funds back to the community. Specifications for prospective spinsters are quite rigorous: applicants must be college-educated, unmarried, and somewhere in the prized age

“I love the spirit of San Francisco. From naked clowns to hippie fish, the people always shine.”

Keith, Oakland

bracket of 21 to 35. At the end of the year, members decide by ballot vote to heap their wealth and plenty into the coffers of a single chosen charity. Past recipients include City of Dreams, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, and the Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf. www.sfspinsters.com

BEST GHOSTS IN THE WOODWORK

Situated on the shore of Lake Merritt in Oakland, the **Scottish Rite Center** boasts hand-carved ceilings, grand staircases, and opulent furnishings — hardly the typical ambiance of your average convention center. But if the ornate woodwork isn't enough to distract you from whatever you came to the center to learn about, its history should: following San Francisco's 1906 earthquake, the East Bay saw a population explosion that quickly outgrew Oakland's first Masonic temple and led to cornerstone laying ceremonies at this shoreline site in 1927. Today the center's ballroom, catering facilities, and full-service kitchens — along with an upstairs main auditorium and one of the deepest stages in the East Bay — make it a favorite setting for

weddings and seminars. It's also the perfect place to wonder how many ghosts crawl out of the woodwork at night, and trace the carved wooden petals that decorate the hallways with the tip of a chilly finger. 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakl. (510) 451-1903, www.scottish-rite.org

BEST GEM OF A FAMILY

For more than seven decades, the name Manis has meant that a jewel of a jewelry store was in the neighborhood. Lou Manis opened **Manis Jewelers** in 1937 at 1856 Mission St. Three months after the Kennedy assassination in 1963, he moved the store to 258 West Portal Ave. Manis Jewelers is still at this location, still a classic family-owned store with an excellent line of watches and jewelry, and still offers expert watch and clock repair, custom design, and reliable service. Best of all, that service is always provided by a Manis. Lou, now 89, retired six years ago, but his son Steve operates the store and provides service so friendly that people drop by regularly just to chat. Steve's daughter, Nicole, works in the store on Saturdays, changing batteries in watches and waiting on customers. She was preceded in the store by her two older sisters, Anna

and Kathleen, and Steve's niece and nephew. 258 West Portal Ave., SF. (415) 681-6434

BEST NEVER FORGET


Since 1984, the **Holocaust Memorial** at the Palace of the Legion of Honor has been a contemplative and sad reminder of one of the biggest genocides in human history. The grouping of sculptures — heart-wrenching painted bronze figures trapped and collapsed behind a barbed-wire fence — sits alongside one of the city's most breathtaking views and greatest example of European-style architecture. Yet it has never, in our

opinion, fully received its due as an important art piece and historical marker. The memorial was designed by George Segal, a highly decorated artist awarded numerous honorary degrees and a National Medal of Honor in 1999. Chances are that many Legion of Honor patrons — plus the myriad brides posed in front of the palace's pillars for their photo shoot — overlook this stark homage to the six million people exterminated by the Nazis during World War II. But it's always there as a reminder that as we look to the future, we must remember the past. 100 34th Ave., SF. www.famsf.org/legion **SFBG**


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GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



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EDITORS PICKS

BEST ALTERNATIVE REALITY

Looking to join a cult, but don't want to deal with the bothersome side effects, like painful indoctrination, induced dependency, and mass suicide? Participate in a fake cult: it's just like a real cult, without the satanic ritual abuse! *Jejune* isn't just an arcane word used in David

Foster Wallace novels — it's also the name of the most mysterious fake cult in San Francisco, centered around a fictitious man known as Octavio Coleman. Coleman supposedly started the **Jejune Institute** in 1973 as a "center for socio-reengineering," and claims to have invented products such as a camera that takes pictures of the past, a process of transferring memories onto VHS tapes, and a method of

CONTINUES ON PAGE 22 »

“
Man, I love the 27
Bryant. That bus
just rules.
”

Brian, Russian Hill

Don't Give up on Judaism...

just because you experienced spiritual vacuity, concepts of God you found antiquated, patriarchal, and unsatisfying, and knee-jerk support for Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians in your previous encounters with the organized Jewish community. Now, there's an alternative voice: *Tikkun Magazine* and Beyt Tikkun Synagogue.

Give us a chance to introduce you to a Judaism that is:

- neo-Hasidic, spiritually alive, intellectually and psychologically sophisticated, and both traditional and innovative (no knowledge of Hebrew necessary to get lots out of the experience).
- welcoming to everyone (including non-Jews)
- On High Holidays we atone for the global consequences of America's economic system which is based on materialism, selfishness, power to the rich and indifference to the damage done to the environment and to the wellbeing of the less powerful. We atone for the damage done to the Palestinian people this past year by the Israeli invasion that caused over 1,200 deaths of Palestinian men, women and children, and the continuing blockade of Gaza—even as we critique Hamas' violence and bombing of Sderot—not only because open-hearted reconciliation is the only rational path to safety and security for Israel, and hence “good for the Jews,” but also because we believe that Palestinians and Muslims are inherently as worthy of dignity and respect as Israelis and Jews. Here's how to try us out:

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Rosh Hashanah

Fri eve, Sept 18, Sat. Sept. 19. (2nd day Sept. 20 in Berkeley)

Yom Kippur

Sun eve, Sept 27 and all day Monday, Sept. 28

Children's Services 1st day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, plus child care available if reserved by Sept. 10th.

Services are FREE if you can't afford our normal prices or any donation, and iff you register for services before September 10th. We are a financially-challenged community, so we'd prefer if you paid our normal charges (sliding-fee scale) but we recognize that these are financially difficult times and wish to make it possible for everyone who really wants to be at those services to attend. For more information, or to register go to www.beytikkun.org/hhd or call us at 415-575-1432. **Study Torah (in English) and Jewish philosophy, theology and social thought with Rabbi Lerner (free) each Saturday in Berkeley. More info: www.beyttikkun.org.**

Tikkun Magazine

The voice of liberal and progressive Jews is ALSO the magazine of the interfaith Network of Spiritual Progressives. Writers have included: Arthur Green, Zalman Schachter Shalomi, Peter Gabel, Kim Chernin, Bill Moyers, Jonathan Schell, Susannah Heschel, Art Spiegelman, David Loy, Uri Avnery, Matthew Fox, Robert Pollin, Robert Thurman, Deepak Chopra, Bill McKibben, Hamza Yusuf, Sharon Welch, Jim Wallis, Fritjof Capra, Estelle Frankel, Eboo Patel, Daniel Berrigan, Cornel West, Riane Eisler, Richard Rohr, John Welwood, Andrew Samuels, Rebecca Parker, Sylvia Boorstein, Howard Zinn, David Korten, Jessica Benjamin

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Best Marina Fluff (and Fold): Greenwich Clean Time

CITY LIVING CONT.

engaging in telepathy with dolphins. Whatever its origins, the Jejune Institute is now the workings of an artist collective that stages elaborate alternative reality games (and generates related mind-screwing posters and fliers) out of its office in the Financial District. Join the Jejune, suspend your disbelief, and revel in the bizarreness. 580 California, Suite 1607, SF. (415) 325-4014, www.jejuneinstitute.com

BEST HOTEL GONE POKÉMON

City leaders pondering how to revitalize the languishing Japantown neighborhood need look no further than the hallucinatory wonder that is **Hotel Tomo**. Snazzy boutique-hotel renovationist corp Joie de Vivre has transformed this former dull Best Western into a super-sleek sleepover spot evoking all of the anime vibrance and digital modernism of Japanese culture. Manga murals bedeck the beautifully refurbished wooden interior, and Giant Robot vending machines, free Wi-fi, and iPod docking stations are among the many perks for hotel guests. For special occasions, there are two gaming suites, with six-foot-long LCD screens for enthralling marathon Wii, Sony PS3, or Nintendo sessions. Guests with a Godzilla-size appetite should make their way to Tomo's in-house eatery, Mums restaurant and bar, which specializes in all-you-can-eat shabu-shabu. With Tomo's reasonable rates, kids and kids-at-heart

can dig the J-pop accoutrements and indulge their playful sides all night long.

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BEST AWWW-INSPIRING CHARITY

Homeless kids lack a lot of things, and security is on the top of the list. Every night can mean a different place — a shelter, someone's floor, a bus station, the street. And while **Project Night Night** can't and doesn't try to solve all the problems of homeless kids and families, the group does something that has real psychological importance: volunteers hand out bags that contain a stuffed animal, a soft blanket, and an age-appropriate book. That means when the kids go to bed, they've got something to hold onto. It's a little thing — but in the life of a five-year-old, a little security goes a long way. Kendra Stitt Robins launched the San Francisco-based nonprofit in 2005, after beginning to raise her own child and fully realizing the value of small comforts. Per year, Project Night Night has given out more than 25,000 care packages nationwide, many of which wouldn't be possible without donations. 1800 Gough, Suite 5, SF. (415) 310-0360, www.projectnightnight.org

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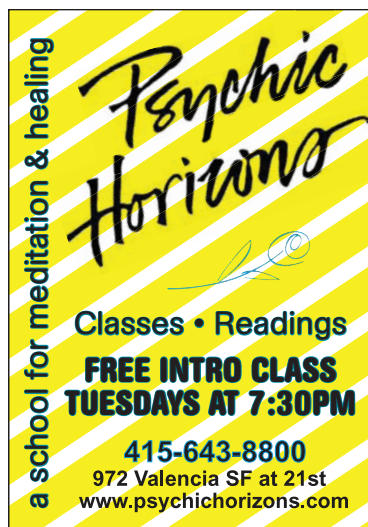
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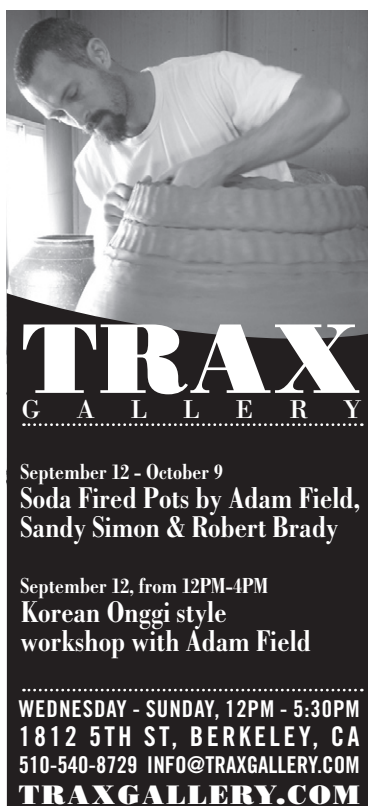


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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

CITY LIVING CONT.

Sparks-and-empanada-flavored ice cream food cart location, revel in random pics of burnt mattresses on the sidewalk, or mock the Ritual Roasters laptop rodeo, of course you turn to the **Mission Mission** blog, our one-click West Coast answer to Brooklyn Vegan, Hipster Runoff, and Lookbook. (Forget Williamsburg, chumps, if you haven't already — the Mission does scruffy, authenticity-obsessed gentrification better than anyone else.) Nothing is safe from the Mission Mission crew — no new bar, no new bar sign, no new bar sign misspelling, no photo essay of said new bar sign being made from recycled hemp shoes and licorice drops by quirky Malaysian immigrant artists. In fact, Mission Mission is so comprehensive, you might never have to visit the neighborhood again, which could be the point.

Missionmission.wordpress.com

BEST HEALTHY EXCLAMATION

If you require a massage to heal and realign from the last time you fell off your bike, or just want to talk to someone about why you have a strange rash or unwarranted fatigue, **Be Whole Again!** nutrition and wellness studio can offer a restorative path to feeling better. Through craniosacral and massage therapy and herbal nutritional supplements, owner and main practitionerCarolynn Kraskouskas works with your problem — rather

than fighting it. She employs light touches to enhance the functioning of the central nervous system, which relieves tension, aligns the body, and even makes it more resistant to disease. Kraskouskas also examines your habitual behaviors — like the way you sit, stand, and walk — so that you have to the option of taking control over some aspects of your wellness. More importantly, she is realistic and willing to work with your lifestyle without being judgmental.

3150 18th St., Suite 536, SF. (415) 846-3640, www.bewholeagain.net

BEST SHOP THAT SUCKS IN A GOOD WAY

Having carpet in your apartment or house is awesome because it enables you to do all sorts of things that hardwood floors just don't. You can do yoga without a mat. You can go barefoot without freezing. And you can make sweet, spontaneous love on it without getting splinters up the wazoo (watch that rugburn, though!). The only bad thing about carpet, unless your plush is ultra-tacky, is that it requires a vacuum to clean, and a vacuum can suffer from many more perplexing technical problems than its analog counterpart, the broom. What to do when your hose starts smoking, your fan belt melts, or your HEPA belches week-old cat fur? Roll that sucker over to the **Hoover Company**, a full-service vacuum repair and sales shop in the Richmond. The welcoming and straight-talking staff will spiff your vac right up at a low cost, teach you how to prevent

clogs, sell you something new if you need it, and even refer you to other places to pick up parts.
3628 Geary, SF. (415) 668-5101

BEST NEWS WITH A BAY VIEW

Do you read about Oscar Grant, hear about racist predatory lenders, see large numbers of black folks migrating away from San Francisco — and feel powerless to do anything? Read in the **San Francisco Bay View** newspaper how people are fighting back around the Bay, across the country, and throughout the world. "All this pressure, and we're still here," says editor Mary Ratcliff about the paper's Bayview neighborhood, pointing out that polluting developer Lennar has yet to build even one promised home there or Hunters Point. "Police with tanks, helicopters, a crime lab in the neighborhood ... we went up against Home Depot, the Navy — and in most cases, we have won." The *Bay View's* not removed from the issues it reports on: last year the paper went from a weekly to a monthly print edition, surviving foreclosure on its offices after struggling with predatory loans for years. Its Web site has stayed packed with articles through it all. 4917 Third St., SF. (415) 671-0789, www.sfbayview.com

BEST MARINA FLUFF (AND FOLD)

One of the worst things about living in an old NorCal city is that you're constantly faced with hardships people in SoCal's cookie-cutter, overdeveloped towns never even think about: public transportation, bed bugs, creaky floors, and, worst of all, laundry. While apartment buildings in L.A. and San Diego commonly feature in-house facilities, we're often stuck using Laundromats. Which means that every week we have to stuff our soiled clothing in bags, truck our pile down the street, and then sit and wait until it's done. It's pretty much the most boring shit ever, but you can minimize the pain of apparel maintenance if you know where to go. For people near the Marina, that place is the cheekily named **Greenwich Clean Time**. It's got one of the fastest washer-dryer setups in town, and its fluff-and-fold service is famously inexpensive and thorough. Also, unlike most Laundromats, this one's squeaky clean. Greenwich Clean Time might not keep you from fantasizing about the pre-packaged ease of life down south, but it might stop

CONTINUES ON PAGE 26 »



Best Hotel Gone Pokemon: Hotel Tomo
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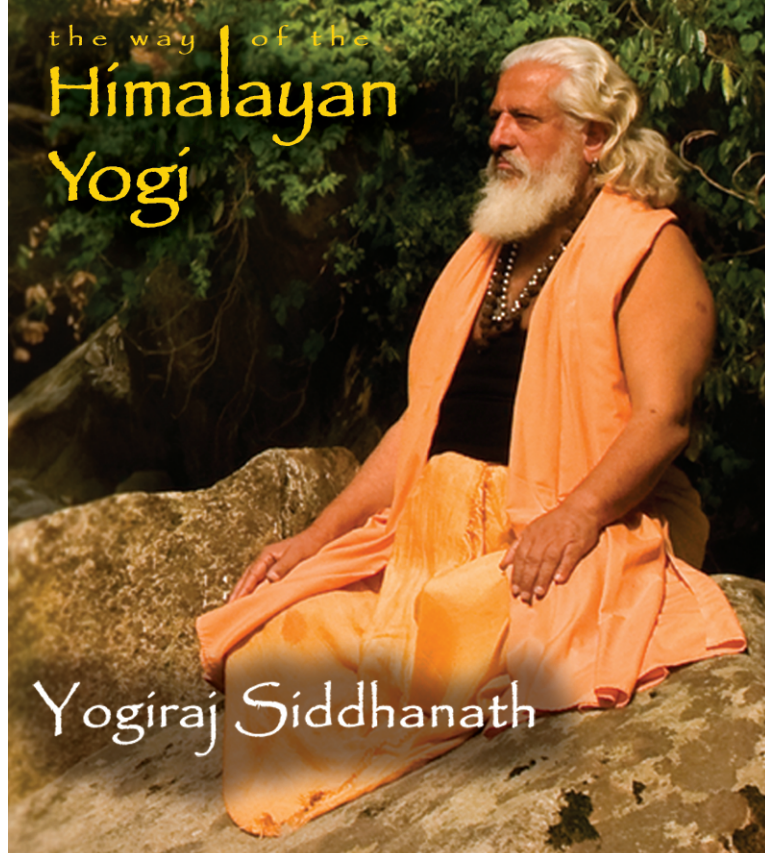
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you from actually moving there. The horror!
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BEST TOOL FOR THE DISABLED

In these times of gutted social services and tapped-out state agencies trying to run on IOUs, **Toolworks** — a nonprofit that partners with people with disabilities and provides them with resources to “promote independence, equality, and personal satisfaction” — not only manages to keep its doors open, but continues to help find new jobs and homes for its clients. Toolworks secures jobs and housing for those who are deaf, blind, developmentally disabled, or using a wheelchair. It also serves individuals who are homeless, have substance abuse or mental health issues, or have recently been released from prison and are trying to keep it together. Recently the organization partnered with a catering company and built a new pavilion on Treasure Island — Toolworks clients now work events there. The organization helps prove that disabled never means unable. 25 Kearny, Suite 400, SF. (415) 733-0990, www.toolworks.org

BEST WAY TO STAY AT HOME

Facing eviction? Landlord threatening to toss our your roommates? Rent increases piling up? Relax, the **Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco** is here to help. With a staff of five and a crew of volunteers, the HRC offers tenant counseling, legal referrals, and resources. A counselor can tell you how to file a petition with the Rent Board; how to contest an eviction; how to deal with roaches, repairs, or unsavory roommates ... or how

to handle almost anything that stands in the way of living-space security. And that's not all: the HRC is one of the most effective political advocacy groups in the city. The small but aggressive organization has won several victories in favor of tenants' rights in the last year. In February, for example, after months of pressure from the HRC, the San Francisco Housing Authority agreed to guarantee that public-housing residents can return to their homes after projects are rebuilt. The HRC is currently working on a final draft of the Public Housing Tenant Protection Act, which would help give renters more peace of mind. 427 S. Van Ness, SF. (415) 703-8634, www.hrcsf.org

BEST HELP FOR THE TECHNICALLY IMPAIRED

Not all San Franciscans are tech-savvy — the shame for admitting that! Our proximity to Silicon Valley gives us easy access to new gadgets, and we've become hopelessly dependent on things we don't quite understand. Elaborate desktop setups, Creative Suites, shiny laptops — many of us couldn't fathom a life without these magical accessories, so it's no surprise that a malfunction often spells disaster. Enter **Tech Collective**, an education station and fix-it shop for all things computer-related. This reasonably priced, responsive organization boasts “Linux gurus, Windows magicians, hardware wizards, Mac mavens,” and even a “mad coder” to melt away your frozen motherboard blues. Plus the Tech Collective is a worker-owned and -operated co-op, so even though we may not be the most circuit-savvy city in the world, at least we're more community-oriented than anyplace else. Take that, Tokyo! 3260 23rd St., SF. (415) 285-8882, www.techcollective.com

BEST CHRISTMAS BLITZ

We all have stuff to bitch about during the holidays — no money for presents, no time, no inclination — but our annual burden is light compared to that of the obsessive decorator. Think about it. For the holidays, people like us throw some sparkly shit on a dead tree or light some candles, but that's nothing compared to what folks like Tom Taylor and Jerry Goldstein (a.k.a. the Cutest Couple in the World) have to deal with. These guys have spent the past 20 years collecting enough lights, decorations, and all-weather gift wrap to turn their Noe Valley home into the Taj Mahal of holiday displays. **Tom and Jerry's Christmas**

“
 They don't come
 more honest than
 Joe of City Cycle
 Werks motorcycle
 repair.
 Harold, Outer Richmond

”

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

“

I like how Parrot Cellular collects used phones — wireless and green, baby
Claudine, Nob Hill

”

display is a megasize version of your average Santa setup. A giant tree decked out with enormous bulbs, stockings that would give Shaquille O'Neal an inferiority complex, and a fully operational choo-choo train are just the beginning. Stop by every year from Dec. 15 through 24 to gawk with wonder at the power of holiday decoration overload.
3650 21st St., SF

BEST POPOS MAPPERS


Under the 1985 Downtown Plan, San Francisco law mandated that building owners must set aside publicly accessible open spaces for the overworked denizens of downtown San Francisco — plazas, greenhouses, or atriums. These privately owned public open spaces, or POPOS, have been San Francisco's best kept secret for a long time, but only recently have efforts been made to publicize them. The REBAR Group, an S.F.-based art and design collective, has undertaken the **COMMONspace Project**, mapping and evaluating these spaces, whether they're tucked away hidey-holes or urban gardens sitting pretty on the corner of Front and Pine. Reaching some POPOS may involve educating security guards on the finer points of land-use laws and riding the gilded marble elevator up to a pristine, well-tended rooftop sun terrace. Others aren't so remote, like the 101 Second St. greenhouse, a spacious, sun-lit complex of willowy indoor trees, or 50 Beale St., a large and shaded urban park containing enough picnic space for everyone.
www.rebargroup.org

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BEST BETTER THAN BREAD AND CIRCUSES

Every year, usually in January, the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and their Families cuts parents a great deal: free entrance to 35 museums for all S.F. residents (with proof of ID) with kids 18 and younger, plus free MUNI travel all day. Beloved publicity hound Gavin Newsom was smart enough to attach his name to this dealie, and voilà — a bid for the governorship was ensured. Just as with fuzzy puppies and Plumpjack spritzers, simply no one could object to the mayor's annual **Family Appreciation Day**, and what a way — free entertainment and travel! — to make a lot of cash-strapped families happy, all in one full swoop. You've at least got our vote while we enjoy the Asian Art Museum, Conservatory of Flowers, de Young, Exploratorium, and more, all the live-long day. This one gesture is way better than shaking hands, kissing babies, posing for *GQ*, or incessantly pleading with us to follow you on Twitter. Thanks, Gav!
www.sfkids.org

BEST PUNK-ROCK COMMISSIONER

Trivia questions pertaining to local government and ballot propositions may not be the most typical way to win concert tickets from your local college radio station — but long-time KALX DJ **Jesse "Luscious" Townley** is not your typical college radio personality. The ever-active activist punk-turned-politician headed west from Philly in 1989 to attend the San Francisco Anarchist Gathering and stayed on, becoming a positive fixture on the East Bay punk and political scene. Townley may have just been elected a commissioner on Berkeley's rent board last November, but he has no plans of giving up his weekly show, which offers a fun mix of punk, funk, rap, comedy, jazz, and blues, sprinkled with sharp social commentary. Same goes for his weekly half-hour talk show "Soap Box Derby." Townley may have once published the fanzine "Berkeley Sucks" and performed "Berkeley Is My Baby (And I Want to Kill It)" with his former band Blatz, but he sincerely

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cares about his adopted East Bay city, and his KALX listeners. KALX 90.7 FM, Tuesdays 6 a.m.-9 a.m., Thursdays 9-9:30 p.m. kalx.berkeley.edu

BEST FREE TO PEE, YOU AND ME

Safe2Pee.org is trying to put an end to those pesky girl-in-a-dress, guy-in-pants plaques that promulgate oppression and tired-ass binaries. Solemnly swearing to combat gender discrimination, the group formed an online bathroom directory that records, aggregates, maps, and promotes gender-free public restrooms. The project operates on a global scale, using cutting-edge yet user-friendly open-source technology. Last year it was recognized in the "Design and the Elastic Mind" exhibit at SFMOMA. (The site also has been decried as "a central part of the homosexual agenda" by reactionary Web site Renew America, heh.) Safe2Pee covers more than 500 cities and plots out your gender-neutral pee break plans on a handy-dandy Google map. The organizers — a collective of empathetic hackers — have so far mapped most major cities in the U.S., Europe, Mexico, and Canada. San Fran alone notches some 147 "safe" public restrooms. www.safe2pee.org

BEST NAIL CARE WITH A BACKSTORY

In 1984, an 18-year-old woman named Quang Mai got on a small

wooden boat anchored off the coast of Vietnam and set off to find a better life. After moving through refugee camps in Malaysia and the Philippines, she eventually managed to immigrate to the Bay Area, where she went to manicurist school and apprenticed for several years. In 1995, she changed her name to Lee ("for marketing reasons," she says), and opened **Lee Nail Care** in Parkside. It's a treat to visit her cozy little shop, made all the cozier on days when the Sunset fog rolls down Taraval Street. She works alone, but is very efficient and flexible, and is often able to take appointments at the last minute. Her husband, another refugee whom she met in San Jose, helps out as well. Lee's clients are loyal and enjoy coming by for an expert manicure or pedicure and chatting with Lee in her beauty haven, with Vietnamese candies and artwork on display. 452 Taraval, SF. (415) 664-3299

BEST NEARBY DISCOVERY

While San Francisco is home to a great mix of parks and playgrounds for the little ones, a change of scenery never hurt a fledgling hyperactive mind. Located in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge at Sausalito's Fort Baker, the **Bay Area Discovery Museum** packs all the fun of a theme park without the misery of a long, scream-filled, "I want to get there now!" car ride. Boasting a seven-acre CONTINUES ON PAGE 30 >>

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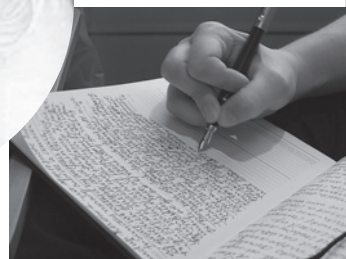
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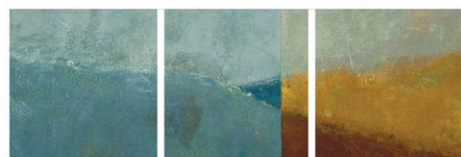
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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

CITY LIVING CONT.

campus possessing numerous facilities, the Discovery Museum is an absolute treasure trove of indoor and outdoor fun and creativity for the tykes. Science workshops, nature visits, and art classes are regularly available for more focused instruction, while special events, performances and festivals take place throughout the year. Summer camp and school outings are also offered. Bonus: just let the kids run wild among the dizzying array of unique play structures and outside activities in order to fast-track early bedtimes. It's win-win for both parents and kids.

557 Reynolds Road, Sausalito. (415) 339-3900, www.baykidsmuseum.org

BEST INFLUX OF FRESH VEGGIES

For folks who have access to fresh produce within a mile of their homes, the opening of a food cooperative may be great news, but in West Oakland — the low-income, post-industrial neighborhood with 20,000 residents and no fresh produce store — the recent grand opening of the **Mandela Foods Cooperative** was momentous. Right across the street from the West Oakland BART station, Mandela seems to carry everything: fresh fruit, vegetables, bulk items, juices, yogurts, and packaged goods. The aim is to provide healthy food, and up to 70 percent of the store's produce is organic or pesticide-free and obtained from local farmers. Six years ago, environmental justice advocate Dana Harvey created Mandela Foods, a nonprofit with the purpose of promoting entrepreneurship among residents and preparing to open the store. Now, eight workers from the neighborhood, ranging in age from 19 to 56, staff the shop and are learning its business model. Soon, the Mandela Food Cooperative will start serving affordable soup and sandwiches and hosting healthy cooking classes, providing physical and economical sustenance to the area.

1430 Seventh Ave., Oakl. (510) 452-1133, www.mandelafoods.com

BEST CURL UP AND LIVE!

Finding the right hairstylist is not unlike finding the right partner. You need someone who can see the real you, who intuitively understands the difference between what you say and what you mean, who appreciates your quirks and brings out your best attributes, and most of all, who doesn't value their per-

sonal expectations above your own. While playing the field, you'll find many stylists who satisfy some of your needs. But there can only be one true match, and oddly enough, most people's perfect hair paramour seems to be Ally of **Curl Up and Dye** salon. Formerly a stylist at Moxie Parlour, this cut-and-color whiz has become so popular for her expertise with curly hair, funky colors, and vintage hairstyles — as well as her uncanny ability to give you exactly what you want — that she opened up her own funky shop in the Mission. With affordable prices and an affable manner, Ally will bring those lackluster locks back to life, and make you forget why you ever saw anyone else.

3150 18th St. #107, SF. (415) 861-2515

BEST PERSONAL JOURNEYS

If you call the folks at **Veteran's Cab** and ask for a cab, Travis Bickle won't drive up to your door. That doesn't mean you won't be picked up by a character, though. You might get a ride from someone who runs a printing business. Or someone who knows a Mission neighborhood street with more thrilling zigzags than Lombard. Or a guy with a raspy voice who should be in the movies — just not an extra-bloody Scorsese one. Unlike other cab companies, Veteran's doesn't use an automated dispatch service, which means you won't be stuck in some computer-controlled pit of phone hell. Instead, you'll talk to a person — maybe even a person who loves metal — and then overhear classic, time-honored banter and insults between drivers and disaptchers. So skip out on the bright yellow. To get around San Francisco, you need to know a veteran.

2270 McKinnon, SF. (415) 552-1300

BEST PLACE TO SEE OLD SAN FRANCISCO ANEW

If you don't feel that matter doesn't matter anymore, then you probably believe in the power of the library. Specifically, you understand that collections of books, photos, or other materials can trigger creative associations and conjure ideas — the kind that aren't reachable through strictly digital avenues. The **Prelinger Library** was amassed in the name of serendipity, as an all-too-rare appropriation-friendly nongovernmental nonacademic and noncommercial site where people can access source materials. Here visitors can find books and magazines devoted to landscape, housing, natural history, radical and labor movements, and — no surprise, considering cofounder



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Casey, Mission



Rick Prelinger is a tremendous movie archivist — a wide array of filmic ephemera. Prelinger's contributions and viewpoints are by no means antidigital, either. Visitors to his Prelinger Archives Web site are encouraged to “download, use, and reproduce” its 26-year-old collection of over 2,000 films, which range from stag shorts to vintage educational tips about dating and warnings about communism. Seeing San Francisco as it was is a great way to see it more clearly as it is today.

301 8th St., SF. www.prelinger.com

BEST RECOVERY ZONE

The Castro neighborhood has a reputation for being a sanctuary, but not a quiet one. That might change thanks to **543 Wellness**, a group of independent alternative health practitioners who have turned a beautiful upstairs space not far from Harvey Milk's old camera shop into a quiet zone and a place to heal. 543 Wellness offers acupuncture, Chinese medicine, expressive arts therapy, bodywork, massage, and a healthy wealth of other revitalizing treatments. Your Western physician might not realize it, but sometimes it takes a needle right between your eyes to transform the world of worries inside your mind, or a few near your wrist to rid you of stiffness and arthritis from an injury. Or some cupping treatment on the back to cure your office posture — and give you some naptime in the process. Whatever your ailment, the solution might be as easy as — wait for it — 543.

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FOOD AND DRINK



Brian Pohn

BEST OF THE BAY 2009: READERS POLL

FOOD AND DRINK

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EDITORS PICKS

BEST CRAB TOWER TO HEAVEN

Somebody call the Fish Police — we should be cited for loitering at this convivial Italian seafood restaurant. Following the tradition of *cicchetti*, exquisite little dishes shared family style, **Pesce** offers communal creations that bring a playful yet authentic touch of Venice to Russian Hill. It can get a bit loud in the narrow, tiled dining room, but you (and hopefully a date or two) will be ensconced in your own world of flavor as you swoon over rich dishes like the porcini pappardelle with braised duck, delectable white anchovy-topped bruschetta, an inimitably tangy tonno puttanesca, and, if you're lucky enough to visit when it's on the dessert menu, a warm, sweet budin (bread pudding) garnished with seasonal fruits that makes "sharing" a risky maneuver. But the small plate that really sends us soaring is Pesce's justly famous

crab tower, less a tower than a little stairway to heaven layered with Dungeness, avocado, cucumber, basil, tomato, and a drizzle of red wine vinaigrette. Alas, it's demolished all too quickly. Care to climb another? 2227 Polk, SF. (415) 928-8025, www.pescsf.com

BEST RECIPE FOR A COMFORT FOOD COMA

Restraint, self-discipline, and moderation have their place. But that place is not **Hard Knox Cafe**, the soul food kitchen that blithely (and thankfully!) ruins diets and courts cardiac arrest. This is a place of comfort and indulgence, with fried-chicken battered just right, ribs whose meat melts off the bone, and mac 'n' cheese so rich that even Southerners have trouble finishing it. Add in a couple moist, piping-hot corn muffins — worth the visit alone — and you're on your way to a food coma that'll last all day. So clear your calendar, put on your elastic pants, and settle into a cushy red two-seater for an afternoon of collard greens, blackened catfish, and

black-eyed peas in portions big enough to sink a cow. We know you want it — and at \$10 for an entrée with two sides *plus muffins*, we know you can afford it too. 2526 3rd St., SF. (415) 648-3770; 2448 Clement, SF. (415) 752-3770, www.hardknoxcafe.com

BEST PLACE TO RIND DOWN

Far from clueless snackers who group their cheeses by color and call it a day, fromage groupies are fervent about their curdy calling — which may be why the San Francisco **School of Cheese** has been consistently selling out its classes since opening in 2006. Courses cover everything from cheese species (cow, goat, and sheep, of course) to regions (France, Italy, Spain, Australia, and Wisconsin are all represented, as are a bevy of exotic locales off the Mediterranean coast). The courses also cater to all levels (amateurs and connoisseurs alike), and teach beverage pairings (beer, wine, what-have-you). Located on a quiet street in North Beach, the Cheese School offers two-hour evening classes taught by one of

10 instructors in spacious headquarters, all for about \$60. Sounds bougie as hell? Sure, but it also sounds delicious. 2155 Powell, SF. (415) 346-7530, www.cheeseschoolsf.com



GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH

Best Comfort Carbi: Shanghai Dumpling King

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CONTINUES ON PAGE 36 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

FOOD AND DRINK

CONT>>

innovations been as tasty as **TCHO**, the experimental chocolate company created by *Wired* co-founder Louis Rossetto and cocoa guru Karl Bittong. Using software development as a model, the pair first launched the company by presenting chocolates in beta form and collecting consumer feedback. Their system for classifying tastes is similarly scientific, creating a flavor wheel that explains the different flavors inherent in chocolate (such as fruity, nutty, or citrus) and then making varieties that are the purest expressions of those attributes. Now in its 2.0 phase, the company produces sustainably sourced chocolate in a stark white lab-like factory at Pier 17, using manufacturing machinery rescued from an old European castle. But a stop by the adjacent café, where you can sample flavors and hear cocogeeks talk about the production process, illuminates where the science stops and the poetry starts — it's in your mouth. Pier 17, SF. (415) 981-0189, www.tcho.com

BEST ABUSE BOUCHE

Conan O'Brien's 2007 commercial for a Chinese restaurant that has its front door next to the kitchen and doesn't serve fortune cookies ("No fortune cookies," the actors exclaim. "Yay!") may be fake, but the place he (and Martha Stewart) are pretending to endorse is real: Chinatown's **Sam Wo**. The institution — occupying parts of three stories — has been serving noodles, dumplings, and stir-fry in its cramped dining room for eons, and is as famous for its odd atmosphere

and bizarre customer service as it is for its late-night hours. Too bad famed waiter (and Herb Caen darling) Edsel Ford Fong — known for screaming at customers, admonishing them for not washing their hands, or dumping soup on them — passed away in 1984. But fear not: we've heard reports that current servers have physically removed patrons for sitting in the wrong chair. If you're looking for a place where the customer is always right and the bathroom is always clean, go elsewhere. But for some post-barhopping chop suey, served up with history and maybe some light abuse, there's nowhere better. 813 Washington, SF. (415) 982-0596

BEST CAFÉ THAT SAVES THE DAY

Lazy Saturday mornings in San Francisco haven't been the same since owner David Pinch peeled the Spiderman wrapping paper from **Caffeinated Comics Company's** windows this spring. Café culture has been heroically transformed. No longer must graphic novel geeks suffer the indignity of stares from those novel readers and crossword puzzle solvers, the coffee house elite whose imagined superiority is evident in every stripe of plaid on their cardigan. Here, Marvel fans can select their comics along with their Four Barrel coffee, browsing until they feel the rush of newfound superpowers — or maybe that's the espresso. Either way, we predict this volatile combination of coffee and comics will have more staying power than Joss Whedon has brilliant ideas. 3188 Mission, SF. (415) 829-7530, www.caffcom.com

BEST IT'S-IT ITERATION

It's hard to argue with the accessible, lowbrow perfection of an It's It — that delightful ice cream and cookie concoction invented in San Francisco in 1928. But if you're looking for an alternative a step or five higher on the culinary chart, look no further than **Ici**. This Berkeley shop features ice cream and cookies made from scratch with ingredients grown by local farmers, under the watchful eyes of former Chez Panisse pastry chef Mary Canales and her talented crew. Eleven flavors of creams, sorbets, and sherbets are available every day, featuring seasonal ingredients and available in cups, pints, or homemade organic cones — and topped with fresh toppings such as bittersweet hot fudge. Our favorite

“Try the “spoonful of happiness” at Koo Sushi — so effin’ good and cheap!”

Makoto, Inner Richmond

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



Best Way to Get Phat: Phat Philly's

delivery method is between two delicate fresh-made gingersnaps or chocolate cookies, individually wrapped in foil for easy transport. It's an It's-It for the locavore generation. What's next? An artisanal Big Stick? A sustainably-sourced Otter Pop? We can only hope. 2948 College, Berk. (510) 665-6054, www.ici-icecream.com

BEST HARD-TO-FIND BREAKFAST

There are no official hours at **Pastores**, the restaurant at the corner of Mission and Cortland that caters only to those in the know (which now includes you). But guessing when (and if) you can get huevos rancheros at this elusive Mission District kitchen is part of its charm. The front door is small and easy to miss. If you find it and then locate the scantily decorated restaurant at the end of a long hallway, you'll already feel as though you've accomplished something. But the real treat comes when your server — also the cook and owner — greets you as if you've entered her home, takes your order, and then places a heaping plate of spicy eggs, salsa, rice, and beans before you. Is that burning sensation simply the homemade salsa sizzling against your chapped lips? Or is it the pride of discovery and serendipity? We're going with the latter. 3486 Mission, SF. (415) 642-5385

BEST BACK-ALLEY WINE BAR

Not all wine connoisseurs are leisure-class snobs with fancy Italian boots, nice homes, and shiny sports cars. Some are the cooks, chefs, waiters, sommeliers, and bartenders who've been serving (deliciously) rotten grape juice to those with money to spend. It's the latter group of experts that cook-turned-wine-guru Chris Fuqua had in mind when he started **Hotel Biron**, a wine bar with an atmosphere and menu designed to match the paradoxically high-end/lowbrow proclivities of those in the service industry. What does that mean? Beer offerings that range from obscure pilsners to Tecate in a can. Scrumptious meat and cheese platters. A mind-blowing wine list. And an unpretentious location next to a row of Dumpsters down a mid-Market alleyway. All of which adds up to the perfect nightly hangout for those with one foot firmly planted on either side of the American dream.

45 Rose, SF. (415) 703-0403, www.hotelbiron.com

BEST "RESTAURANT" WITHIN A RESTAURANT

It isn't Lung Shan's eggrolls or its all-you-can-eat buffet that has foodies in skinny jeans forming a line outside the restaurant on Thursday and Saturday evenings. In fact, none of the patient patrons — who CONTINUES ON PAGE 38 >>

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FOOD AND DRINK

CONT.,»

sometimes wait more than an hour for a table — are here to eat at the Chinese restaurant at all. Sure, they sit in its dining room and enjoy food that comes out of its kitchen, but on these nights, Lung Shan becomes **Mission Street Food**, a restaurant *within* a restaurant that features different culinary talent each time. The phenomenon has earned a

fanatical following despite — or perhaps because of — the things it lacks: a set menu, a space of its own, a regular chef. Each evening sees different deliciously playful dishes, like the Milky Snixertweers Kat, a terrine of candy bars and vanilla ice cream. Prices are low (most entrées hover around the \$10 mark), and the profits are donated to charity. You don't need a cookie to tell you that's good fortune.
2234 Mission, SF.
Missionstreetfood.blogspot.com

BEST RECESSION-PROOF SUSHI

Common wisdom suggests that sushi can be either cheap or good, but never both. **Ichi** disagrees. The Bayview-based company run by Erin Archuleta and her partner Tim, a veteran sushi chef, prides itself on providing restaurant-quality, sustainable (when possible) sushi in unconventional settings, all at low prices. Most locals know Archuleta's rolls, nigiri, and specialty items from catered nights

at Bender's, the Knockout, Mr. Barbershop, or 111 Minna, where fresh fishy delights can be obtained for less than \$5. But Ichi also provides lunchtime service for clients at Google, YouTube, IDEO Design, and 826 Valencia. Whether you're looking for happy hour eats in the Mission or an alternative to a croissanwich platter at your office party in the Financial District, you can't beat Ichi in sushi-bang for your ever-dwindling bucks.
(415) 822-4024, www.ichisushi.com

“

I can't rave enough about El Toreador's superb mole.

Kevin, Liberty Hill

”



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There may have been a time when authentic Senegalese food was just too exotic for the Bay Area palate — but that time has long passed. At **Lam Toro**, nothing has been watered down for American tastes, from the spicy kick of habanero relish to the bones you're expected to pick out of your fish entrée. For an extra bit of authenticity, call ahead to have dishes like ceebu jen (fish sautéed in a tomato-spiced rice, considered the national dish) or yassa (chicken or fish simmered in a garlic, mustard, and lemon sauce) served family-style on a large plate in the middle of the table. Then enjoy hibiscus and ginger drinks while dining among a diverse crowd of West Africans, Afrophiles, and Peace Corps alumni. A fantastic East Bay complement to San Francisco's Bissap Baobab, this bright, cheerful eatery is the perfect place to experience Senegalese hospitality without needing a passport.

2432 Telegraph, Oakl; (510) 832-1010

BEST CUSTARD IN A CUP

Sure, the mole at **La Oaxaqueña Bakery and Restaurant** is the shizzle. And the mammoth Mexican pizzas, along with other regional specialties served in this glaringly-lit hole-in-the-wall, are *muy excelente*. But it's the housemade flan that really gets our *locomotora* running. Far from the boring dessert most of us have learned to ignore, this version is creamy and silken with intense vanilla flavor, lightly sweetened by a perfect puddle of caramel sauce. You won't even care about the uninviting, disposable, cafeteria-style plastic containers

CONTINUES ON PAGE 40 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

FOOD AND DRINK

CONT>>

the flan comes in — once you've licked 'em clean.

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BEST WAY TO GET PHAT

It's no secret that the West Coast trounces our Eastern comrades on numerous fronts — weather, culture, blondes. But alas, there has always been the cheese steak factor, the one superior trait that your Atlantic Ocean-based relatives can hang over your head as cause for return eastward. Thankfully, **Phat Philly's** has removed that weapon from your family's arsenal. The 24th Street eatery features fresh Kobe beef, 12-inch Amoroso rolls shipped from Philly, and a cheese selection that includes Whiz, the glorious liquefied dairy product that covers steak and onions like a radioactive landslide. Not only is Phat Philly's classic cheesesteak perfectly dialed to East Coast standards, but the restaurant's menu also boasts an impressive range of other tasty options, such as crisscut waffle fries, steakhouse chili, and buffalo wings smothered in Mr. Pibb's barbecue sauce. Add in a toppings bar of various peppers with limitless soda refills, and you may never have to visit your relatives again.
3388 24th St., SF. (415) 550-7428, www.phat-philly.com

BEST MOUTHFUL OF ZEN

The tea-mongers' invasion of San Francisco is gaining momentum. **Samovar Lounge** has added its third venue to the fold, and all of "Zen Valley" is abuzz. Perched on

“
La Ciccia astounds.
Who knew tripe
could taste so good?
Laura, Glen Park

”

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

the top of Page and Laguna, this branch of the tea empire is crafted from reclaimed wood and iron, including a long bar of wind-fallen redwood, and features a variety of teas sure to reclaim even the most jaded coffee palate. With a full spectrum of artisanal whites, greens, and blacks, plus edibles such as delicate lavender cookies, hearty Japanese maki bowls, and winsome sandwiches, Samovar's emphasis on taste, texture, and traditional tea service both tantalizes the senses and engages the mind. Surprising, refreshing, and invigorating, a trip to Samovar is a bit like visiting a spa retreat for the tongue. 297 Page, SF. (415) 861-0303, www.samovarlife.com

BEST HOMEMADE HANGOVER FOOD

The original **Moulin Rouge** was known as a place for drinking and debauchery. Our favorite S.F. version is a friendly, family-owned diner perfect for recovering from such shenanigans. The husband-and-wife team serves up legendary omelets and corned beef hash in portions hefty enough to soak up last night's alcohol, while teetotaling friends who've joined you for breakfast won't be disappointed by cream cheese-stuffed thick-cut French toast. And everyone will appreciate being able to get a meal and coffee for less than \$10 — especially when you won't know how much you spent at that Tenderloin bar the previous night until you go back to pick up your forgotten credit card. 887 Geary, SF. (415) 928-0158

BEST WAY TO PRETEND TO EAT NONEDIBLES

Debbie Goard is to cake what Karl Lagerfeld is to cloth. Both have the eye of an artist, the hands of a sculptor, and a fondness for classic quilted Chanel bags. But while Lagerfeld's denim and sequin satchels may look good enough to eat, Goard's purse cakes actually are. The Oakland-based baker behind **Debbie Does Cakes** specializes in turning any object — and we mean *any* — into an edible masterpiece. She's made a giant iPhone cake for Apple, tiny replicas of cosmetics for Benefit, and a three-foot version of San Francisco's Union Bank of California to commemorate its 100th anniversary. And those are just the corporate jobs. Her Flickr account proves she can turn flour, sugar, and eggs into severed feet, rice cookers, dead rats, and just

about every type of toy dog known to humanity. In fact, we're willing to bet she could construct a confection of Lagerfeld himself. www.debbiedoescakes.net

BEST PRE-GAME DOG

As Mission Bay continues its dull development in the shadow of AT&T Park, it is good to know that there are still some real-deal holdouts from a time before the neighborhood devolved into generic condo chaos. The **Java House** has been serving up delicious blue-collar fare for sailors and longshore-workers since 1912 (before Willie Mays was even a pup), retaining its prime location along South Beach Harbor within pitching distance of the ballpark. Stop by for top-notch, pregame burgers and chili dogs — without the major league price gouging — or a breakfast of pancakes and eggs, all still served up by owner Philip Papadopoulos. Affordable, delicious food with history and a view? *That's* a home run. Pier 40, SF. (415) 495-7620, www.javahousesf.com

BEST DRIVE-BY BURRITO

Serving first-rate organic Southwest-style Mexican cuisine, **Green Chile Kitchen** has grown so popular for its fantastically fresh plates of blue corn enchiladas, green chile stew, and \$2 bottles of Pacifico that seats are often in short supply. This is particularly true during peak feeding hours, when locals have grown inclined to bring along the entire family for one of Green Chile's whole Fulton Valley rotisserie chicken meals (with cheesy mashed potatoes and fresh calabacitas). Luckily, for those who can't wait for their grilled Niman Ranch pork burrito, the cozy NoPa eatery provides drive-by service. Just call in your order and cruise by the restaurant. Someone will run your grub curbside. Eager eaters and drive-through fans may never eat at Taco Bell again. 601 Baker, SF. (415) 614-9411, www.greenchilekitchen.com

BEST JAPANESE PIZZA

There are many cuisines you'd probably never want to see featuring pizza, though after you've tried okonomiyaki, you'll realize that Japanese isn't one of them. Okonomiyaki, served hot at **Mifune Don** at the Peace Plaza in Japantown, is a savory and highly addictive little pancake made with a flour-based batter that includes

CONTINUES ON PAGE 42 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

FOOD AND DRINK

CONT>>

yam, cabbage, dashi, and eggs, then topped with ingredients such as mochi, seafood, and kimchi. Like pizza, the whole thing is often accompanied with cheese; unlike its Italian cousin, it sometimes includes mayonnaise. Though this description may sound revolting, the Osaka specialty is extremely difficult to dislike. And Mifune Don's version is the best you'll find this side of the Pacific.

22 Peace Plaza, SF. (415) 346-1993

BEST COOKING CLUB FOR COOL KIDS

Cook Here and Now is not just a statement, it's a newfangled take on the old-fashioned potluck. This underground cooking and tasting club gathers for periodic food-a-thons in a donated kitchen space, often the Zocalo furniture store in Bayview. And while the movement has gained national attention — last year CHN appeared in *Travel + Leisure* and *Food & Wine* magazines, and it has inspired similar cooking clubs as far away as Melbourne, Australia — locally the group has remained under the radar. (Which is just as well, because attendees are ferociously loyal, and each event tends to fill the

40-or-so seats mere minutes after being announced.) Attendees must sign up in advance and agree to prepare part of the community meal based on a theme or ingredient. Then they shop for ingredients, bring kitchen tools to the meet-up, and spend nine hours cooking, chatting, drinking, eating, and cleaning — all in the pursuit of one-upping each other with well-sourced ingredients, cooking technique, and culinary wow. www.cookhereandnow.com

BEST WAY TO GET FIRED UP

We are unfathomably fortunate to be rolling in great, rustic, old world bread in the Bay Area, never needing to suffer the indignities of spongy-goo crumbs and lifeless crusts that are the cruel fate of other carb-loving gastro-regions. Although we're surrounded by many good bakeries, there is only one choice for King of the Loaves. That's Oakland's **Firebrand Artisan Breads**. This latest addition to the East Bay bakery scene crafts its incredible bread (the rye is our hands-down fave among baguettes and batards) in a wood-fired oven, which results in the crispest, heartiest, most robust crust that yeast, water, and grain can yield. It's dense, rustic, and unparalleled. Plus, the shop's a heckuva lot closer to San Francisco

than Freestone's Wild Flour Bakery in West Marin.
1552 Beach, Oakl. (510) 594-9213,
www.firebrandartisanbreads.com

BEST PUCKER FOR PENNIES

Candies imported from Mexico and South America have gotten a bad rap in recent years. But that's no reason to overlook the confection entirely — particularly when such an outstanding specimen is made in the East Bay: **Dulceria Miriam's** tamarind candy. Situated next to the cash registers of many a Latino market are the unpretentious plastic jars of Dulceria Miriam's candy, whose sweet pucker cannot be beat. The ingredient list is deceptively simple: fresh tamarind and sugar, sometimes with the addition of salt and/or cayenne. But the way this independent candy-maker cultivates this brown, sticky magic is a sour-candy fan's greatest dream. Whether the dessert is stuck to a plastic spoon and wrapped in a wad of plastic (the messiest and the best) or served hard and chewy on a stick, the full-blown tropical flavor makes you salivate for more. And all that tang for a mere couple of quarters? Not since the first Pac Man arcade games have we found this much joy for this little coinage.

BEST "TACO" IN THE CASTRO

When considering eating in the Castro, most of us are more likely to think of attractive dining rooms and steep prices than impressive Indian cuisine. But one argument against this neighborhood's culinary reputation for style above substance is **Kasa Indian Eatery**. This 18th Street eatery provides an attractive atmosphere along with delicious food, particularly the kati roll: Calcutta's street food answer to the taco, featuring four flaky, ghee-laden wraps filled with flavor-forward curries. Particularly impressive are the veggie options, including bhangin bharta, a smoky-sweet eggplant mash punctuated with the pop of fresh peas, and karahi paneer, a toothsome cheese tossed with silken green peppers in a light tomato sauce. But carnivores won't be disappointed with (free-range) chicken tikka, or one of the other rotating meat-based specials. And the rolls are just five bucks a pop. Affordable, edible, and attractive food in the Castro? The only thing better would be if they delivered to your neighborhood. Oh wait. They do.
4001 18th St., SF. (415) 621-6940,
www.kasaindian.com



BEST OF THE BAY 2009

BEST LATE NIGHT PIG-OUT

Any restaurant open seven days a week until 3 a.m. deserves serious awesomeness points. But **Pizza Zone & Grill** not only has late hours (including delivery until 2:45 a.m. every day), but pizza that's actually pretty damn good. Slices are made to order and come double-sized, so they're always fresh and big enough for your post-bar belly rumblings. And if you're not in the mood for pizza, you can also order burgers, sandwiches, salads, and appetizers. Right across from Zeitgeist and only blocks from the rest of northern Valencia's watering holes, this convenient family-owned fueling station may forever eliminate your need to visit Taco Bell Heights' namesake landmark. You're welcome. 178 Valencia, SF. (415) 701-7300, pizzazoneandgrill.com

BEST MID-MORNING MENU

There's breakfast, and then there's *brunch*. Breakfast was invented to fuel your work day on the farm, or fight last night's hangover, or maybe to make the price of your stay at the Comfort Inn seem like a better deal. But brunch is an indulgence, suggesting leisure, pleasure, and good company. One of our favorite spots for this meal-between-meals is **Mission Beach Cafe**. With a poetic menu, clean design elements, a sunny dining room, and the blissful absence of club music, this Guerrero Street stop is the perfect spot for a morning(ish) meal that's stylish without trying too hard. Sip Blue Bottle coffee while you wait for a pulled pork sandwich with onion citrus relish, or soufflé pancakes with blueberry compote. Or simply eye those waiting in line (seating can take as long as 30 minutes on a weekend) while you imagine the beef brisket hash or spiced fried eggs with horseradish crème fraîche that are coming your way. And since this special meal takes the place of two regular ones, you might even consider your \$15 entrée a bargain. 198 Guerrero, SF. (415) 861-0198, www.missionbeachcafesf.com

BEST FIELD TRIP FOR THE FRAT BOY IN ALL OF US

There are benefits to drinking local beers, beyond getting locavore points and microbrew cred. The best thing about having a brewery in your very own city is the chance to see how that most awesome of libations is made. **Anchor Steam** gives tours of its



Potrero Hill facility every weekday — 45 minutes of walking and 45 minutes of tasting. Groups witness the whole process, including bottling, while getting a full history of Anchor's trademark steam beer that's been made in San Francisco since 1896 (though the current recipe has only been around since Fritz Maytag bought the business in 1965). The tour is something like a grade-school field trip mixed with a post-college wine tour. You'll get all the educational (and mind-altering) benefits without the boredom (or the school-bus smell). Don't believe us? Tours are so popular they are booked solid three to six weeks in advance. 1705 Mariposa, SF. (415) 863-8350, www.anchorbrewing.com

BEST SUSTAINABLE SHORE THING

Beach fare tends to fall into two food groups: snacks and beer. But where do health nuts go when they want to fuel up for sun and sand? A feel-good option for smoothie-drinking vegans and sustainability-conscious locavores alike is **Judahlicious**, a registered green business that serves sandwiches, raw vegan desserts, and fresh sandwiches hearty enough for a day of riding gnar gnar breaks or light enough for an afternoon of displaying brand-new hemp bikinis. Hippie jokes aside, though: we love that this independent business supports local organic farmers, uses compostable and recycleable products, and hand-sorts waste to contribute to organic soil for a small, native-plant nursery in the city. And it doesn't hurt that the food is delicious. 3906 Judah, SF. (415) 66-JUICE, www.judahlicious.com

BEST WAY TO BRING HOME THE BACON

It's just too easy making sexual jokes about how much the three women who own **Avedano's** love their meat. Besides, the trio who revamped a century-old butcher shop are nothing if not serious about their mission to serve curious carnivores. Co-owner and Sociale executive chef Tia Harrison and her partners have combined the traditions of a classic meat market with the sensibilities of sustainability to create a neighborhood butchery perfect for the eco-conscious-yet-bacon-loving city that spawned *Meatpaper*. The shop not only sells what's for dinner, but offers classes on everything from butchering a suckling pig to handling a hacksaw — after which students take home \$100 worth of fresh meat. But don't think all this dedication means the Avedano's ladies have no sense of humor. A recent sign board read, "Nothing Beats Back Fat." Uh, that's what she said? 235 Cortland, SF. (415) 285-MEAT, www.avedanos.com

BEST BELLYFUL WITH BELLY DANCE

Some pundits will argue that belly dance is rarely, if ever, a regular part of African and Middle Eastern dining; they say, in fact, it's a rare or underground activity made mainstream for *Aladdin*-loving tourists with *Arabian Nights* fantasies. To them we say, so what? Sometimes we want our dinner with a bit of Disney flair — particularly if the food itself is authentic and delicious. A perfect example is **Al-Masri**, the Egyptian eatery in a far-flung corner of the Outer Richmond whose cuisine and

CONTINUES ON PAGE 44 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

FOOD AND DRINK

CONT>

décor say "fertile crescent" and whose entertainment says "for Americans." Talented ladies jiggle their hips while you fill your stomach with towering columns of eggplant, perfect pyramids of spice rice, lamb kebabs, and lentil stew. What could be more festive? More delicious? More of a pleasant departure from the predictability of taquerias and mariachis in the Mission, and creperies and easy listening in the Castro?

4031 Balboa, SF. (415) 876-2300,
www.almasrisfca.com

BEST PLACE NOT TO ORDER A COCKTAIL

Heaven's Dog is nirvana for cocktail lovers — which is exactly why you should never *order* a cocktail here. Don't get your usual. Don't examine the drink list. Instead, look the bartender in the eye and confidently say these three words: freedom from choice. By doing, so you'll be putting the fate of your drink order in the hands of the ridiculously talented bar staff, which specializes in flawless, bespoke libations. When your drink arrives, be it a Biarritz Monk Buck or a Bumble Bee, your guide — who is not only a master bartender but also a font of liquorous wisdom — will serve it up with a side of

fascinating history. This is one bar that control freaks and those who fear change need not belly up to, but people with a little faith will be deliciously rewarded with the best drink they've ever had the good sense not to order.

1148 Mission, SF. (415) 863-6008,
www.heavensdog.com

BEST FOOD CART WITH A CIVIC HEART

What would the pop-up food stand be without Twitter? In the case of the **Creme Brulee Cart**, it would be less of a community service organizer. Thanks to the micro-blogging tool, fans of Curtis Kimball's fine desserts can find out where in the city he's selling his lavender or orange Creamsicle-flavored delights (all costing less than a BART ticket to Berkeley). But lately, it's also how Kimball is getting the word out about My Dolores Park, a new project focused on reclaiming — and cleaning up — the Mission's favorite sunny-day stop. We're fans of all three of the newest pop-up restaurateurs, including Murat from the Amuse Bouche Cart and Kimball's brother, the Magic Curry Man. But we have a particular soft spot for the guy who's dedicated to expanding hipster bellies *and* their civic engagement.

www.twitter.com/cremebruleecart,
www.twitter.com/mydolorespark

BEST HAM 'N' EGGS 'N' HAM 'N' HAM 'N' HAM

In this town, necessity isn't the mother of invention — eggs are. But whom should we credit for S.F.'s extensive ovo-innovation? Dr. Seuss, whose *Green Eggs and Ham* may have presaged the pesto or avocado scramble? Whatsisname Benedict (or was it Benedict Whatsisname?), who put the English muffin under the ham and hollandaise? The Mexicans, who added chili and tortillas and begot chilaquiles? The Jews, who threw unleavened bread into the mix and made matzo brie? Locally, we're voting for the **Pork Store Café**, home of the best nouveau melding of somethin' 'n' eggs so far: the Scralifornia. Although the concoction of eggs, salsa, feta cheese, and avocado doesn't seem particularly Californian (well, OK, the avocado does), the result transcends mere scrambles and statchood. Of course, the Pork Store didn't get its name by doing right only by vegans. Word is that the ham, chorizo, pork loin, bacon, and other homages to the pig also go down real easy. Scralifornia, here we come.

1451 Haight, SF. (415) 864-6981; 3122 Valencia, SF. (415) 626-5523

BEST FROZEN YOGURT OF THE FUTURE

Remember when we used to refer to froyo with two separate words, flavors were limited to chocolate and vanilla (or, if you in a particularly exotic suburb, peanut butter), and people behind a counter decided how much to put in your cup? Times they are a-changin.' And we like it. Especially at **Icebee**, the cheerily strange frozen yogurt shop behind the Westfield shopping center. Not only can you get delicious dessert made with live and active cultures (apparently, they do survive freezing) in flavors like green tea and mango (and plenty others — take that, Pinkberry). But the serve-yourself setup means you decide exactly what ratio of yogurt to toppings you want in your biodegradable cup. At 46 cents an ounce, you only pay for what you get, whether it's a mere taste of blueberry yogurt and fresh fruit as a post-shopping refresher or a full serving of New York Cheese Cake with candy toppings as consolation for the crappy movie you saw across the street.

829 Mission, SF. (415) 882-7800,
www.icebeeyogurt.com



BEST OF THE BAY 2009

BEST NEW SPOT FOR GETTING YOUR YAYAS

When Yaya closed, we thought our city's steamy affair with Iraqi chef Yahya Salih was over. Lucky for us, the Middle Eastern gourmet is back with **Jannah**, a casual new eatery between Poleng Lounge and Papalote in the Western Addition. Under murals depicting blue sea and sky, diners can dig into traditional-sounding food that's anything but predictable — all for under \$11 a dish. We love the standards — hummus, baba ghanoush, and kebabs — but are even more delighted with juices made from fresh fruits, raisins, and mint; dips like mama ghanouge (accented with carrot and cardamom) or hudhud ghanoush (turnip and dates); and a savory phyllo dish with seafood, fava and garbanzo beans, and sun-dried lime. Desserts are equally revelatory, like kahi phyllo pockets stuffed with warm cardamom-redolent cream. Best of all? Now that our relationship with Salih is secure, we don't have to roam the city for some embarrassing Yaya rebound.

1775 Fulton, SF. (415) 567-4400

BEST COMFORT CARB

Every culture has their comfort soup ingredient. Jews have matzo balls. The Japanese have miso. The ... well ... everyone ... has noodles with chicken. But when it comes to belly-warming, tear-clearing supper on a spoon, it'd be hard for any culture to compete with that Chinese specialty, the wonton. When the fog rolls over the Richmond, or a metaphorical mist chills your heart, there's no better place to cure what ails you than **Shanghai Dumpling King**. The steaming bowls of wonton soup are big enough to feed two, which means either a chance to administer a double dose of self-care or an opportunity to share with a friend (misery loves company, as does a good meal). If you're sharing, you may have room for dim sum, graciously served for dinner. By the time you finish the BBQ pork buns and fresh, simple, perfectly chewy wontons in savory broth, you'll hardly remember whatever misery sent you seeking Shanghai in the first place.

3319 Balboa, SF. (415) 387-2088

BEST LUNCH ON A LOADING DOCK

Ambiance is overrated. That's what you learn by lunching at **Kitchenette**, the new eatery located in the oft-overlooked Dogpatch

“

Lili at Hunan Cafe No. 2 always asks about my cat, Elvira.

Cade, Outer Richmond

”

neighborhood. Instead of spending time and money designing a glitzy post-industrial space, the chef-owners behind Kitchenette opted for a real-deal industrial loading dock with a commanding view of the long-term storage facility across the street, allowing them to spend more time and money on what really matters: the food. A new menu, posted online the night before service, is available Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., or until the food runs out — which it often does, particularly on Taco Tuesdays, when lucky eaters chow down on corn tortillas filled with Niman Ranch pork carnitas topped with guacamole, salsa, and cabbage. Each lunch menu offers a superb veggie option (in the form of a salad, sandwich, or bento box) — as well as one for carnivores — alongside two or three additional snacks and a Cookie of the Moment (Hello, maple bacon snickerdoodles!). There's really only one word that does Kitchenette justice: yum.

958 Illinois, SF. www.kitchenettesf.com

BEST BURGERS OVER 40

Not all burgers are created equal. You know it, we know it, and **Hamburger Haven** does too. Think about it: Anybody can heat up a patty, slap it on a bun, and call it grilled gold. But that doesn't mean it's going to taste good. It takes a lot of effort, love, and time to create a true masterpiece. Which is exactly what Hamburger Haven has been cranking out since 1968. Hamburger Haven does breakfast, dinner, and dessert, but the real focus here is on burgers. BBQ sauce-slathered, chili-drenched, Reuben-inspired — you name it and Hamburger Haven does it better than anyone else in the city.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 46 »

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

FOOD AND DRINK

CONT>>

Which partially explains why the place has been around so long, but not entirely. The simple down-home charm of H.H. is what we appreciate. From the decor, to the service, right down to the presentation, Hamburger Haven is a no-nonsense burger shack where the only frills you'll find will be mashed inside your buns. Simple, pure, haven-ly.
800 Clement, SF. (415) 387-3260

BEST PLACE FOR A PARISIAN DINNER DATE

On a charming, leafy Castro block, one with the spirit of a European neighborhood, sits **L'Ardoise Bistro**, a real-deal French bistro that effortlessly marries casual intimacy with romantic intrigue. Gracious French staff, closely set tables, and a chalkboard (the restaurant's namesake) evoke your most beloved Parisian dinners, replete with the effortless sexiness that we love in a city like Paris. But what places it among S.F.'s beloved classic bistros, like Chapeau! and Clementine, is heartwarming food. Your date can't help but cozy up to you after perfectly cooked coq au vin, duck leg confit, or seafood gratin. Escargot, pommes frites, and charcuterie also abound, with plenty of French wines to pair with. And the love needn't dissipate once you get the check.... Portions are gener-

ous and the highest priced dish on the menu is \$19. *Viva la romance!*
151 Noe, SF. (415) 437-2600,
www.ardoisesf.com

BEST WABI-SABI AND COFFEE

We're not sure if **Hollow**, the new café in the coffee-shop-deprived Inner Sunset, is actually an example of wabi-sabi design principles. But it's undeniable the shop embraces simplicity, an affinity for nature, and an appreciation of the unconventional — the essence of the Japanese aesthetic philosophy, which the co-owners (an interior designer and freelance programmer) wholeheartedly appreciate. In fact, everything about Hollow is modest and unconventional: its tiny space; its earthy palette of green, brown, and silver hues; its limited selection of quality delicacies (truffles, cashew cookies) and Ritual espressos (no drip coffee here); and its selection of rustic trinkets for sale (birdcages and nests, African masks, antlers, retro matchboxes, and alchemist vases). Whether you know about Buddhist-inspired art forms or not, you'll find that this cabinet of caffeine and curiosities is an exquisite sanctuary in the Inner Sunset.
1435 Irving, SF. (415) 242-4119,
www.hollowsf.com

BEST FREE BBQ

Everyone knows the best hangover busters are a good, protein-heavy meal and a bit of hair of the dog. Problem is, those who need relief most tend to be the ones who spent



Best Back-Alley Wine Bar: Hotel Biron

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

“

I go to Amelie wine bar more often than should be allowed.

S., Nob Hill

”

the most money getting themselves hungover in the first place. What to do when you only have enough cash for beer or food, but not both? If it's Sunday, go to (the aptly named) **Bender's**. Every week the Mission dive provides free BBQ, including meat and veggie options. At \$2, Pabst Blue Ribbon is so cheap you can afford to have hair from several dogs. And for those who live close enough, just hop on your fixie and take advantage of indoor bike parking. Just remember to pace yourself, because tomorrow lunch is gonna cost you. Sundays, 3-7 p.m. 806 S. Van Ness, SF. (415) 824-1800, www.bendersbar.com

BEST GYPSY WOMAN WITH A PERMANENT ADDRESS

Is it the sexy, swanky décor that makes **Gitane** so appealing? The genius bartenders who whip up tasty tipples with a smile? The bacon bonbons and fresh bread served in a deceptively small dining room that feels both grand and intimate? Yes, yes, and hell yes. We didn't know what to expect when the founders of Café Claude opened this gypsy-themed restaurant, but were delighted to find that the designers and chef took elements from gypsy culture and the countries where gypsies — or rather, the Roma people — have historically lived, and combined them into a lovely, unexpected, and unpredictably consistent mélange. Grab a date for a cocktail (perhaps the Gypsy, Gitane's twist on the St. Germain's elderflower trend) or dinner (if they're on the menu, order the melt-in-your-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 49 »

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FOOD AND DRINK

CONT.,»

mouth ribs), or simply stop in for a glimpse at the bar's reflective ceiling or the mezzanine's illuminated brick wall. Portions are ample enough that you may not have room for dessert — but no matter. An evening at Gitane feels decadent, sensual, and indulgent enough.
6 Claude, SF. (415) 788-6686, www.gitanerestaurant.com

BEST WAY TO EAT ROSEMARY'S BABY

It's hard to remember life B.H.C.: Before **Humphry Slocumbe**. Sure, we have plenty of amazing ice cream, and suffer little for want of a good local scoop. But when fine-dining veteran Jake Godby applied his experience at Coi, Fifth Floor, and Boulevard to the art of ice cream, the results were nothing short of *great*. Stunningly original flavors like Secret Breakfast — a creamy heaven of bourbon and cornflakes — have become the new standard. And we expectantly follow Twitter waiting for postings of the day's latest flavors, which could range from Peanut Butter Curry to Laphroaig Scotch Rye, and Red Hot Banana to Rosemary's Baby (rosemary and pine nuts). Sure, those \$7.50 pints add up, but what you're getting for that costly juice (as in Jesus Juice, a flavor featur-

ing Kermit Lynch Côtes du Rhône and Coke Classic flavor) is rich satisfaction mixed with a splash of adventure.

2790 Harrison, SF. (415) 550-6971, www.humphryslocumbe.com

BEST SECRET SAZERAC

San Francisco suffers no shortage of well-made classic cocktails. The revival that began more than a decade ago — perhaps the final remnant of the 1990s swing revival — is still pouring it on, and terms like “sidecar,” “bitters,” and “Pimm’s” are ubiquitous on most upscale bar menus. For any gimlet greenhorns anxious to navigate the fraught waters of classic cocktailia with no potential embarrassment or pocketbook deflation, we recommend the generous, spacious, yet still mixology-audacious **83 Proof**. Whether you order the Proof's fancy basil gimlet (with a gentle splash of ginger Cello) or a sturdy, manly Manhattan (with a dark, house-candied Maraschino cherry), the attentive bartenders and companionable atmosphere will put you in a comfortably adventurous mood. If it's a slower night, the staff may even mix you a kick-ass sazerac, the legendary, labor-intensive ur-cocktail from New Orleans made with rye whiskey, bitters, and sugar in an absinthe-prepped glass. Slink in on a Monday and ask nicely.
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Robert Deyber, *The Elements Earth Sign (detail)*, acrylic on canvas

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EDITORS PICKS

BEST BLOODY QUEEN

A gut-spewing zombie drag queen roller derby in honor of *Evil Dead* 2. An interview with *The Exorcist's*

Linda Blair preceded by a rap number that includes the line, "I don't care if they suck their mother's cock, as long as they line up around the block!" A virtual wig-pulling catfight with Elvira, Mistress of the Dark. All this and more

have graced the proscenium of the Bridge Theater as part of the jaw-dropping (literally) *Midnight Mass* summertime B-movie fun series, brought to us by the always perfectly horrific *Peaches Christ*. Her

CONTINUES ON PAGE 52 »



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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

ARTS AND NIGHTLIFE CONT. >>

wigs alone are usually enough to scare the jellybean-bejeezus out of us, but Peaches combines live craziness with wince-worthy flicks to take everything over the top. After this, her 12th season of disembowelled joy, Peaches is moving on from Midnight Mass to become a director in her own right — she just wrapped up filming *All About Evil* with Natasha Lyonne and a cast of local fleshbots. Look for it in your googleplex soon, and know that Peaches still stumbles among us. www.peacheschrist.com

BEST FLAMIN' FUN

Kids, really, *don't try this at home*. Don't hook up your two-player *Dance Dance Revolution* game to a row of flamethrowers. Don't rig said game to blast your dance competitor with a faceful of fire in front of an adoring crowd if they miss a step. Don't invest in enough propane to fuel a small jet, a flaming movie screen for projecting all those awkward dance moves onto, and a booming sound system to play all the Japanese bubblegum techno you could ever hope to hear. Leave the setup to Interpretive Arson, whose **Dance Dance Immolation** game has wowed participants and spectators alike from Black Rock City to Oaktown — and will scorch Denmark's footsies this fall. Do, however, seek out these intrepid firefighters, and don a giant silver fireproof suit with a Robby the Robot hood. Do the hippie shake to the mellifluous tones of Fatboy Slim and Smile.dk, and prepare yourself to get flamed, both figuratively and literally. www.interpretivearson.com

BEST PENGUIN PARTY, PLANETARIUM INCLUDED

Penguins are damn funny when you're drunk. They're pretty entertaining animals to begin with, but after a couple martinis those little bastards bring better slapstick than Will Ferrell or Jack Black. But tipsily peeping innocent flightless birds — plus bats, butterflies, sea turtles, and manta rays — is just one of many reasons to attend **Nightlife**, the stunningly rebuilt California Academy of Sciences' weekly Thursday evening affair. This outrageously popular (get there early) and ingenious party pairs gonzo lineups of internationally renowned DJs and live bands with intellectual talks by some of the world's best-known natural scientists. Cocktails are served, the floor



is packed, intellects are high — and where else can you order cosmos before visiting the planetarium? Another perk: the cost of admission, which includes most of the academy's exhibits, is less than half the regular price, although you must be 21 or older to attend. Come for the inebriated entertainment, stay for the personal enrichment. Thursdays, 6 p.m., \$8-\$10. California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Dr., Golden Gate Park, SF. (415) 379-8000, www.calacademy.org/events/nightlife

BEST LINDY HOP TO LIL' WAYNE

Retain a fond nostalgia for the 1990s swing revival scene? **Swing Goth** is the event you've been waiting for. Not quite swing and not even remotely goth, Swing Goth gives swing enthusiasts the go-ahead to boogie-woogie to modern tunes at El Rio. This isn't your grandmother's fox trot: rock, rap, '80s, alternative, Madchester, Gypsy punk, and almost anything else gets swung. Held on the first and third Tuesday of each month and tailored for beginners, this event draws an eclectic crowd that includes dudes who call themselves "hep cats," Mission hipsters, and folks who rock unironic mom jeans and Reebok trainers. If you're new to swing, arrive at 7:30 and take a one-hour group lesson with ringleader Brian Gardner, who orchestrates the event, to get a quick introduction to swing basics before

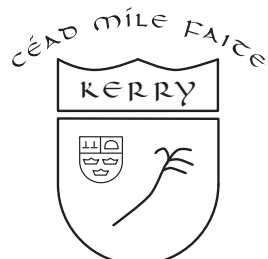
the free dance. Lessons are \$5, but no extra charge for ogling the cute dykes who call El Rio their local watering hole. Swing? Schwing! First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., free. El Rio, 3158 Mission, SF. (415) 282-3325, www.swinggoth.com

BEST CELESTIAL TRAJECTORISTS

Who can take a sunburst of boomer rock inspirations — like *The Notorious Byrd Brothers*-era Byrds and *Meddle*-some Pink Floyd — sprinkle it with dew, and cover it with chocolaty nouveau-hippie-hipster blues-rock and a miracle or two? The fresh-eyed, positive-minded folks of **Assemble Head in Sunburst Sound** can, 'cause they mix it with love and make a world many believed had grown hack and stale taste good. Riding a wave of local ensembles with a hankering for classic rock, hard-edged Cali psych, Japanese noise, and wild-eyed film scores, the San Francisco band is the latest to make the city safe once more for musical adventurers with open minds and big ears. What's more, the Assemble Head in Sunburst Sound's inspired new third album, *When Sweet Sleep Returned* (Tee Pee) — recorded with help from Tim Green at Louder Studios — has fielded much press praise for space-traveling fuzzbox boogie blowouts like "Drunken Leaves" and blissed-out, sitar-touched jangle rambles such

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Together with super-keyboardist Phillip Saisse, Braun is pushing his boudaries, placing his muted trumpet and flugelhorn in new settings, a touch of Euro-cinema here, a touch of disco there. He's definitely the king of the smooth, and this may be his best one yet.

12.99



Kool Keith Lost Masters Collection

Oglio

The Spankmaster returns, packaging his first two Lost Masters discs in with the third installment in the series. For you, that means 44 tracks of Keith-a-liciousness, all in a nifty digipack. That'll keep you bumping for a bit.

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Going back to their roots, The Satanic Satanist has the most samples and looping of any PTM record since their debut. The Alaska band keeps up a pretty frantic pace: one album a year, 250+ shows a year. But for them that's just the push they need to keep making things great.

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Jordin Sparks Battlefield

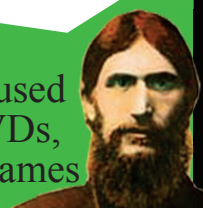
19/Jive

Sparks' second disc is sure to solidify her place as an Idol who's really got the goods. She's every bit as likable now as she was when she won, and she's only growing as a singer and live performer. There's some genuine hits here, don't sleep on it.

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

ARTS AND NIGHTLIFE CONT>>

as "Kolob Canyon." Consider your mind burst.
www.myspace.com/theassembleheadinsunburstsound

BEST DANCE DYNAMO

You can't miss him. He has legs like tree trunks and arm muscles that ripple like lava. When he leaps you think he'll never come down, and his turns suggest the power of a hurricane. He is dancer **Ramón Ramos Alayo**. Six years ago he founded the CubaCaribe Festival that now packs in dance aficionados of all stripes, and he's one of the shaping forces behind the wild San Francisco Carnaval celebration. He runs Alayo Dance Company, for which he choreographs contemporary works with Afro-Cuban roots, and he teaches all over the Bay Area — as many as 60 people show up for his Friday salsa classes at Dance Mission Theater. But Ramos is most strikingly unique as a performer. Ramos is as comfortable embodying Oshoshi, the forest hunter in the Yoruba mythology, as he is taking on "Grace Notes," a jazz improvisation with bassist Jeff Chambers. No wonder Bay Area choreographers as radically different as Joanna Haigood, Sara Shelton Mann, and Robert Moses have wanted to work with him.
www.cubacaribe.org

BEST BLUEGRASS AMNESIAC

Toshio Hirano packs a mean sucker punch. At first glance he's a wonderfully eccentric Bay Area novelty, a yodeling Japanese cowboy playing native songs of the American heartland. Yet upon further inspection, it becomes as clear as the skies of Kentucky that Toshio is the real deal when it comes to getting deep into the Mississippi muck of Jimmie Rodgers-style bluegrass. Enchanted by the sound of American folk music as a Japanese college student, Toshio soon ventured stateside to spend years traveling and playing from Georgia to Nashville to Austin before finally settling in the Bay Area. Today, Toshio plays once a month at Amnesia's free Bluegrass Mondays to standing-room-only crowds. Stay awhile to hear him play Hank Williams's "Ramblin' Man" or Rodgers's "Blue Yodel No. 1 (T for Texas)." It'll clear that Toshio's novelty is merely a hook — his true appeal lies in his ability to show that there's a cowboy lurking inside all of us.
www.toshiohirano.com

BEST COMMUNITY CHOREOGRAPHERS

A collective howl went up in 1995 when it was announced that the annual festival Black Choreographers: Moving into the 21st Century at Theater Artaud was ending due in part to lack of funding. But two East Bay dancers, Laura Elaine Ellis and Kendra

“

Three consecutive plays in drag? Jef Valentine is the best actor in spiked heels.

Heidi, Excelsior

”

Kimbrough Barnes, actually did something about it, working to ensure that African-American dancers and dance-makers received attention for the range and spirit of their work. It took 10 years, but in 2005, Ellis and Kimbrough Barnes helped launch **Black Choreographers Festival: Here and Now**, which takes place every February in San Francisco and Oakland. The three-week event is a fabulous way for a community to celebrate itself and to invite everyone to the party. While the choreographers' range of talent and imagination has been impressive — and getting better every year — the performances are merely the icing on the cake. Master classes, mentoring opportunities for emerging artists, and a technical theater-training program for local high school and college students are building a dance infrastructure the next generation can plug into.
www.bcfhereandnow.com

BEST MADCAP POP MAIDENS

San Francisco can always use another all-female band — and **Grass Widow** satisfies that need beautifully, cackling with brisk, madcap rhythms and rolling out a happy, crazy quilt of dissonant wails. Drummer-vocalist Lillian Maring, guitarist-vocalist Raven Mahon, and bassist-vocalist Hannah Lew are punk as fuck, of course — in the classic, pre-pre-packaged noncodified mode — though many will instead compare the trio's inspired, decentered pop to dyed-in-the-bluestockings lo-fi riot grrrl. Still, there's a highly conscious intensity to Grass Widow's questioning of the digital givens that dominate life in the late '00s, as they sing wistfully then rage raggedly amid accelerating rhythms and a roughly tumbling guitar line

CONTINUES ON PAGE 56 >>



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ARTS AND NIGHTLIFE CONT.

on "Green Screen," from their self-titled debut on Make a Mess: "Flying low into trees. We exist on the screen. Computer can you hear me? Understand more than 1s and 0s?" Grass Widow may sweetly entreat the listener, "Don't make a scene," but if we're lucky, these ladies will kick off a new generation of estrogen-enhanced music-making. www.myspace.com/grasswidowmusic

BEST PURPLE SING-ALONG

Karaoke is one of those silly-but-fun nightlife activities that always has the potential to be awesome but usually isn't. The song lists at most karaoke bars suck, the sound systems are underwhelming, and no matter where you go there's always some asshole bumming everyone out with painful renditions of Neil Diamond tearjerks. Well, not anymore! Steve Hays, a.k.a. DJ Purple, is a karaoke DJ — or KJ — who has single-handedly turned the Bay Area's once tired sing-along scene into a mother funk'n' party y'all. **DJ Purple's Karaoke Dance Party** happens every Thursday night at Jack's Club. Forget the sloppy drunks half-assing their way through Aerosmith and Beyoncé songs. DJ Purple's Karaoke Dance Party is all about Iron Maiden, Snoop Dogg, Led Zeppelin, and Riskay. No slow songs allowed. An actual experienced DJ, Hays keeps the beats running smooth, fading and blending as each person stumbles onstage, and even stepping in for saxophone solos and backup



I love Casanova
Bar, even though
I keep getting
dumped there.

Skot, SoMa



vocals when a song calls for it. And sometimes even when it doesn't. Thursdays, 9 p.m., free. Jack's Club, 2545 24th St., SF. (415) 641-5371, www.djpurple.com

BEST FLANNEL REVIVAL

In this age of continual retro, it comes as a surprise that listening to mainstream '90s alternative rock can give you, under the right inebriated circumstances, the kind of pleasure not experienced since heroin went out of vogue. **Debaser** at the Knockout has become one of the best monthly parties in San Francisco, largely because it gives '80s babies, who were stuck playing *Oregon Trail* in computer class while Courtney Love and Kat Bjelland were rocking it out in Portland, the chance to live out their Nirvana-era dreams. Debaser promoter Jamie Jams is the only DJ in San Francisco who will spin the Cranberries after a Pavement song, and his inspired mixology is empirically proven to induce moshing en masse until last call, an enticingly dangerous sport now that lead-footed Doc Martens are back in style. Sporting flannel gets you comped, so for those still hung up over Jordan Catalano and the way he leans, Debaser is rife with contemporary, albeit less angsty, equivalents.

First Saturdays, 9 p.m., Knockout,
3223 Mission, SF. (415) 550-6994,
www.myspace.com/debaser90s

BEST CRANIUM MONOPOLY SCRABBLE RISK

The shaky economy's probably put your \$60 concert plans on hold and relegated those high-rolling VIP nights to the back burner. So it's a great time to return to the simpler forms of social interaction, such as shaking some dice and screaming, "Yahtzee, bitches!" or guffawing maniacally every time some poor fool attempts to pass your two hotels on Boardwalk. Fortunately, **game night at On the Corner café** on Divisadero fills your staid Wednesday evenings with enough card-shuffling, Pop-o-matic popping, I-want-to-be-the-thimble classics to sink your battleship blues. Plus, there's coffee and beer. Working in collusion with the colossal collection of neighboring Gamescape, On the Corner provides a plethora of gaming options to fit its large tables and vibrant atmosphere. Stratego, Scattergories, and other trivial pursuits are all available, and the 7 p.m.-to-closing happy hour includes \$2.50 draft beers and sangria specials. The tables fill up quickly, though — arrive early so you won't be sorry.

Wednesdays, 7–10 p.m., free. 359
Divisadero, SF. (415) 522-1101,
www.sfcorner.com

BEST PARTY OF ONE

Perfect moments are never the ones you work hard to create. Too much effort kills the magic. Instead, the moments we treasure are those that steal up on us, slipping past our defenses to reveal, for just an instant, the sublime wonder of the universe. This is precisely what happens during one's first encounter with the **Lexington Street disco**

ball, innocuously spinning its multifaceted heart out on a quiet neighborly block in the heart of the Mission District. One moment you're just walking down the street minding your own business — perhaps rehashing the “should have saids” or the “could have beens” in the muddled disquiet of your mind — when suddenly you spot it, the incongruously located disco ball suspended from a low-hanging branch, throwing a carpet of stars across the sidewalk for anyone to enjoy. All is

still, but the music in your heart will lead you. Hold your hands in the air, walk into the light, and *dance*.
Lexington between 20th and 21st streets, SF

BEST BLOCK-ROCKIN' BIKE

Amandeep Jawa's bright blue, sound-rigged party-cycle — **Trikeasaurus** — is our bestest Critical Mass compadre and bike lane buddy, and an essential component of his impromptu FlashDance parties. This three-wheelin', free-wheelin', pedal-and-battery-pow-

ered funk machine has been bringing the party to the people — and leading spontaneous Michael Jackson tributes — from the Embarcadero to the Broadway tunnel for the past two years. Even if you're just out for a stroll or a bit of that ephemeral San Francisco "sun"-bathing, when Trikeasaurus comes rolling along you just have to boogie on down the road, bust a move, get your groove thing on, let your freak flag fly, and insert ecstatic cliché

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SF BAY GUARDIAN Best of WINNER

BEST SPORTS BAR IN THE CITY

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ARTS AND NIGHTLIFE CONT.

here. We can pretend all we want in the privacy of our own hip *sancta sanctorum* that Destiny's Child or OutKast will never move us, but somehow when Trikeasaurus comes bumping by, we just can't help but bump right back. Don't fight the

feeling! Join the 500-watt, 150-decibel velolution today.
www.deeptrouble.com

BEST HOLES FOR YOUR KRAUTROCK SOUL

If you've done ketamine, you know what it's like to get lost in the cosmic K-hole. To those who have entered the mystical D-hole, however, your ketamine story is child's

play. The **Donuts** dance party, thrown at various times and locations throughout the year by DJ Pickpocket and visual artist AC, provides adventurous club-goers with that most delicious of drugs: donuts, given away free. First timers, be careful: these potent little sugar bombs are highly addictive and can often lead to an all-night binge of ecstatic power-boogie, which can result in terrible withdrawal symptoms. Like many other popular club drugs, donuts are offered in powdered form, though they can also be glazed, which leaves no tell-tale residue around the mouth. But as long as you indulge responsibly, entering the Hole of the Donut is perfectly safe. Amp up your experience to fever-pitch perfection with Donuts' pulse-pumping Krautrock, new wave, retro disco, and dance punk live acts and beats.
www.myspace.com/donutparty

BEST PLACE TO PARTY LIKE A SLOVENIAN

If there's one thing all Slovenians have in common, it's that they know how to deck a muthafunkin' hall, y'all. It stands to reason then that Slovenians run one of the big-

gest and best halls in town. The **Slovenian Hall** in Potrero Hill is available for all your partying needs — birthdays, anniversary bashes, coming-out fests, etc. The rooms inside the hall are spacious and clean, the kitchen and bar spaces are outfitted to serve an entire army, and there are plenty of tables and chairs. But it's the decor that makes this place unique: Soviet-era and vintage tourism advertisements are sprinkled throughout the place and banners promoting Slovenian pride hang from the ceiling. The hall also hosts live music events — recently an Argentine tango troupe took up residence there, making things border-fuzzingly interesting, to say the least.

2101 Mariposa, SF. (415) 864-9629

BEST FUTURE RAP CEO

Odds are you've not yet heard of East Bay teen hip-hop talent **Yung Nittlz** — but one day soon you will. The ambitious, gifted Berkeley High student has already amassed five albums worth of smooth and funky material that he wrote, produced, and rapped and sang on. In August 2007, when he was just 13, the rapper born Nyles Roberson scored

Balboa Theatre is the raddest place to catch a flick.

Casey, Western Addition

media attention when *Showtime at the Apollo* auditions came to town and he was spotted very first in line, having camped out the night before. And while Yung Nittlz wasn't among the lucky final few to be picked, he did make a lasting impression on the judges with his strong performance of the song "Money in the Air" and choreography that included him strategically tossing custom-made promo dollars that he designed and made. The gifted artist also designed the professional-looking cover for his latest demo CD, which suggests

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Best House Outside: Pacific Sound

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www.myspace.com/yungnittlz

BEST B-MOVIE SURVIVOR

The crappy economy has ruined many things. It’s the reason both the Parkway and the Cerrito Speakeasy theaters — where you could openly drink a beer you’d actually purchased at the concession stand, not smuggled in under your sweatshirt — closed their doors this year. But even a bumper cash crunch can’t dampen a true cult movie fan’s love of all things B. Deprived of a permanent venue for his long-running “Thrillville,” programmer and host Will “The Thrill” Viharo adjusted his fez, brushed off his velvet lapels, and started booking his popular film ‘n’ cabaret extravaganzas at other Bay Area movie houses, including the 4-Star and the Balboa in San Francisco, and San Jose’s Camera 3. Fear not, devotees of film noir, tiki culture, the swingin’ ’60s, big-haired babes, Aztec mummies, William

Shatner, the Rat Pack, Elvis, creature features, Japanese monsters, and zombies — the Thrill ain’t never gonna be gone. www.thrillville.net

BEST GAY FLIPPER ACTION

Much like travel agents, beepers, and modesty, pinball machines are slowly becoming relics of the past. But it’s difficult to understand why these quarter-fed games would fall by the wayside, since they’re especially fun in a bar atmosphere. What else is there to do besides stare at your drink, hopelessly chat up the bartender, constantly check your phone, and try to catch that one cute patron’s eye. At the Castro’s **Moby Dick**, pinball saves you from such doldrums. Sure, the place has the requisite video screens blaring Snap! and Cathy Dennis chestnuts, and plenty of hunky drunks to serve as distractions. But its quarter-action collection — unfortunately whittled down to three machines, ever since Theater of Magic was retired due to the difficulty of finding replacement parts — is a delightful retro rarity in this gay day and age. So tilt not, World Cup Soccer, Addams Family, and

Attack from Mars fans. There’s still a queer home for your lightning-quick flipping. 4049 18th St., SF. www.mobydicksf.com

BEST BLAST OF JUSTICE

Founded in 2002, the many-membered **Brass Liberation Orchestra** has been blowing their horns for social justice all over the Bay Area — from the San Francisco May Day March and Oakland rallies for Oscar Grant, to protests against city budget cuts and jam sessions at the 16th Street BART station. Trombones out and bass drums at the ready, this tight-knit organization of funky folk recently returned from New Orleans, where they played to support community rebuilding projects in the Lower Ninth Ward. With a membership as diverse as they come, the BLO toots their horns specifically to “support political causes with particular emphasis on peace, and racial and social justice” — especially concerning immigrants’ rights and anti-gentrification issues. But the most joyful part of their practice is the spontaneous street parties they engender wherever they pop up, and their seemingly impromptu

romps through neighborhoods and street festivals. Viva la tuba-lution! www.brassliberation.org

BEST WITTY WONG

Is your idea of hell being trapped in a room with a white, collegiate, spoken-word “artist” — or worse yet, being forced to wear an Ed Hardy t-shirt? Are you a veteran of the 30 Stockton and the 38 Geary, with the wounds and the stories to prove it? Can you just not help but stare at someone who somehow can’t resist an act of street corner masturbation? Then you’re ready to lend an ear to **Ali Wong**, the funniest comedian to stomp onto a San Francisco stage in a long time. Some people get offended by Wong, which is one reason she’s funny — comedy isn’t about making friends, and she’s not sentimental. She draws on her family history and writing and performing experience in implicit rather than overt ways while remaining as blunt as your funniest friend on a bender. www.aliwong.com

BEST SITE FOR SHUTTERBUGS

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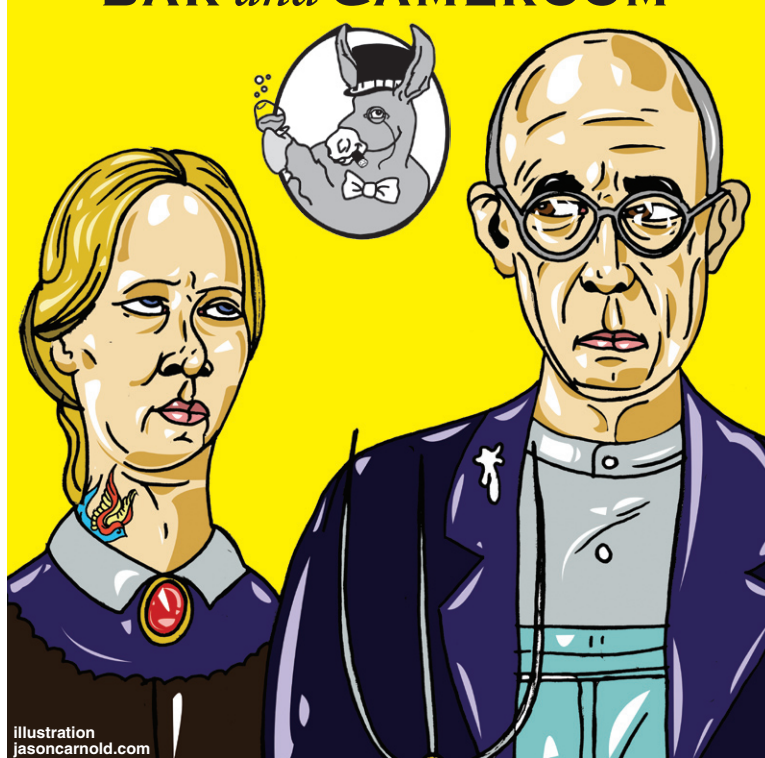


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Illustration by Jason Arnold

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

ARTS AND NIGHTLIFE CONT.

image-making. Devoted in part to local photographers, RayKo's gallery has showcased Bill Daniel's panoramic yet raw shots of a post-Katrina Louisiana and has likely influenced a new generation of shutterbugs affiliated with groups and sites like Cutter Photozine and Photo Epicenter. One of its coolest and truly one-of-a-kind features is the Art*O*Mat Vending Machine, an old ciggie vendor converted into a \$5-a-piece art dispenser. And of course RayKo has an old photo booth, so you can take some quick candid snapshots with or without a honey.

428 Third St., SF. (415) 495-3773,
www.raykophoto.com

BEST RAPPING CABBIE

The great myth about cab drivers is that they're a bunch of underappreciated geniuses who write poetry and paint masterpieces when they're not busy shuttling drunks around. Most cabbies, however, aren't Picassos with pine-scent air fresheners. They clock in and out just like we all do, and then they go home and watch reality TV. There are, however, a few exceptions to the rule: true artists who have deliberately chosen the cabbie lifestyle because it allows them the freedom to pursue their passions on the side. **MC Mars** is such a cabbie. A 20-year veteran on the taxi scene, Mars is also a hip-hop performer, a published author, and an HIV activist. You can check his flow every Wednesday night at the Royale's open-mic sessions. Or, if you're lucky enough to hail his DeSoto, you can get a free backseat show on weekends. And don't forget to pick up his latest CD, "Letz Cabalaborate," available on Mars' Web site.

www.mcmars.net

BEST FRESH POETICS

The Bay Area knows poetry. And people in the Bay Area who know poetry today realize that the San Francisco Renaissance, the Beats, the Language poets, and even the New Brutalists might inspire contemporary writers, but they don't own them. You can encounter proof in places like Books and Bookshelves, and read it in publications like *Try*. As the *Bay Area Poetics* anthology edited by Stephanie Young made clear in 2006, Bay Area verse is enormous and ever-changing. One year earlier, David Larsen established a space for it in Oakland with his New Yipes



Reading Series, which frequently paired poets with filmmakers. He's since moved to the East Coast, but Ali Warren and Brandon Brown re-energized the concept, simplifying its name to **The New Reading Series** and refining its content to readings with musical interludes. It's the best place around to hear Tan Lin and Ariana Reines and confront notions of the self through Heath Ledger. It's also hosted a kissing booth, for all you wordsmiths who aren't above romantic trappings. 416 25th St., Oakl.
www.newyipes.blogspot.com

BEST HOUSE OUTSIDE

For 15 years, the much-loved and lovable warm weather Sunset parties have shaken various hills, isles, parks, patios, and boats with funky, techy house sounds. Launched by underground hero DJ Galen in 1994, the outdoor Sunset gigs have amassed a huge following of excited party newbies and familiar old-school ravers — and now even their kids. Early on in the game, Galen was soon joined by fellow Bay favorite DJs Solar and J-Bird, and the three — collectively known as **Pacific Sound** — have kept the vibe strong ever since. This year saw a remarkable expansion on the Sunset fan base: attendance at the season opener at Stafford Lake reached almost 4,000, and Pacific Sound just launched an annual — and truly moving — party on Treasure Island that had multiple generations

putting their hands in the air. The recent Sunset Campout in Belden drew hundreds for an all-weekend romp with some of the biggest names in electronic music — true fresh air freshness.
www.pacificsound.net

BEST SECRET OF ETERNAL RAVE

According to murky local legend, sometime in the early '90s a Finnish archaeologist named Mr. Floppy passed through Oakland on a quest to find an inverted pyramid rumored to hold the secret to eternal life. He didn't find anything like that, of course, but he did discover a really cool apartment complex run by an obsessive builder named George Rowan. The sprawling place, which housed multiple dwelling units as well as an outdoor dance area and an out-of-use bordello and saloon famously frequented by Jack London in the 1800s, was an interconnected maze of rooms decorated with found objects and outsider art. It was a perfect spot to throw underground raves, which is exactly what Floppy and Rowan did until the day they got slapped with a fire-hazard citation. Nobody really knows what happened to the psychedelic archaeologist after that, although his spirit lives on: **Mr. Floppy's Flophouse** has recently re-opened as a venue for noise shows, freaky circuses, and all-night moonlit orgies. 1247 E. 12th St., Oakl **SFBG**



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EDITORS PICKS

BEST NEW NECESSITIES

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Park shop, the obvious answer will be yes. And for those gift items you do need — scented candles and soaps, letterpress greeting cards, handprinted wrapping paper — Perch is perfect too. We'd recommend you stop by just to window-shop, but who are we kidding? You can't visit here without taking something home.
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BEST PENNYSAVERS FOR EARTHSAVERS

How many environmentalists does it take to change a light bulb? None: LED light bulbs last longer than environmentalists. If you think that joke's funny — or at least

CONTINUES ON PAGE 66 »



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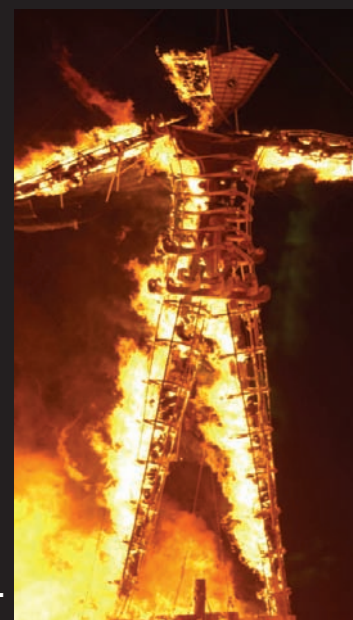
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get why it's supposed to be — you might just be the target market for **Green Zebra**. Based on the idea that environmentally aware consumers like to save money as much as their Costco-loving neighbors, this book melds the concept of a coupon book with the creed of environmental responsibility. It's a virtual directory of deals at local businesses trying to work outside the world of pesticidal veggies and gas-guzzling SUVs. Anne Vollen and Sheryl Cohen's vision now comes in two volumes — one for San Francisco, and one for the Peninsula and Silicon Valley — featuring more than 275 exclusive offers from indie bookstores, art museums, coffee houses, organic restaurants, pet food stores, and just about anywhere else you probably already spend your money (and wouldn't mind spending less). (415) 346-2361, www.thegreenzebra.org

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So you need a salad spinner, some kitty litter, a birthday card for your sister, and a skein of yarn, but you don't feel like going to four different stores to check everything off the list? Face it, you're lazy. But, you're also in luck. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the **Standard 5 and 10**, a one-stop wonderland in Laurel Village that caters to just about every imaginable whim, need, and desire of serious shoppers and procrastinators alike. Don't be fooled by the large red Ace sign on the storefront — this is not merely a hardware



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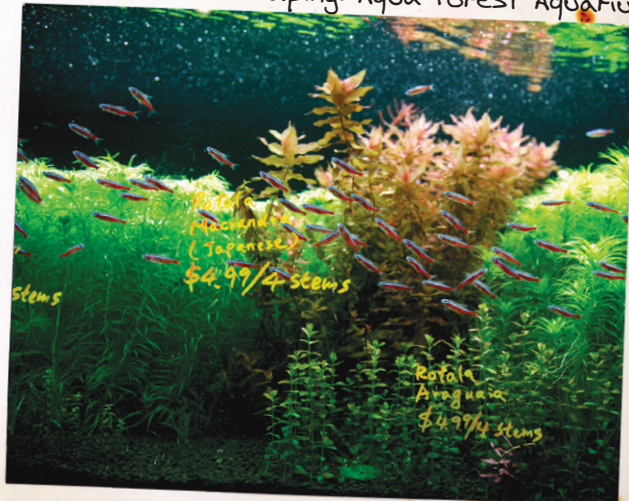


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store (although it can fulfill your hardware needs, of course). It's an everything store. Walking the aisles here is a journey through consumerism at its most diverse. Greeting cards and tabletop tchotchkes fade into rice cookers then shower curtains, iron-on patches, Webkinz, motor oil.... It's a dizzying array of stuff you need and stuff you simply want. 3545 California, SF. (415) 751-5767, www.standard5n10.com

BEST PLACE TO SINK A BATTLESHIP

Maybe we don't have flying cars yet, but with video chatting, iPhones, and automated vacuum cleaners, we're pretty close to living in the imaginary future *The Jetsons* made magical. Is it any wonder that, while loving our new technologies (hello, Kindle), we've also developed a culturewide nostalgia for simpler times? A perfect example is the emergence of steampunk — perhaps familiar to the mainstream as jewelry made of watch parts and cars crafted to look like locomotives. There also seems to be a less expensive, less industrial trend for the pastimes of yore: Croquet. Talk radio. And board games. The last of which is the basis of **Just Awesome**, the Diamond Heights shop opened by Portland escapee Erik Macsh as a temple to old-fashioned charms. Here you can pick up a myriad of boxes full of dice, cards, and plastic pieces. Head home with *Clue*, one of the *Monopoly* iterations (was *Chocolate-opoly* really necessary?), or a new game that came out while you were distracted by Nintendo Wii. You can even open the box

and try a round or two in the shop. How's *that* for old-world service? 816 Diamond, SF. (415) 970-1484, www.justawesomemegames.com

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2009**

SHOPPING CONT>>

all for less than the cutting-edge designer labels would suggest they should cost. And it's not just for the ladies. Michael and Holly Weaver stock their adorable boutique with clothing and accessories for all chromosomal combinations. The concept's become such a success that Shotwell's moving from its old locale to a bigger, better space. All we can say is, rock on.

320 Grant, SF. (415) 399-9898,
www.shotwellsf.com

BEST LOOKIN'

The best stores are like mini-museums, displaying interesting wares in such a way that they're almost as fun to peruse as they are to take home. **Park Life** takes this concept one step further by being a store (wares in the front are for sale) *and* a gallery (featuring a rotating selection of local contemporary artists' work). No need to feel guilty for window-shopping: you're simply checking out the Rubik's Cube alarm clock, USB flash drive shaped like a fist, and set of "heroin" and "cocaine" salt-and-pepper shakers on your way to appreciating the paintings in the back, right? And if you happen to leave with an arty coffee-table book, an ironic silk-screen T-shirt, or a Gangsta Rap Coloring Book, that's just a bonus.
220 Clement, SF. (415) 386-7275,
www.parklifestore.com

“

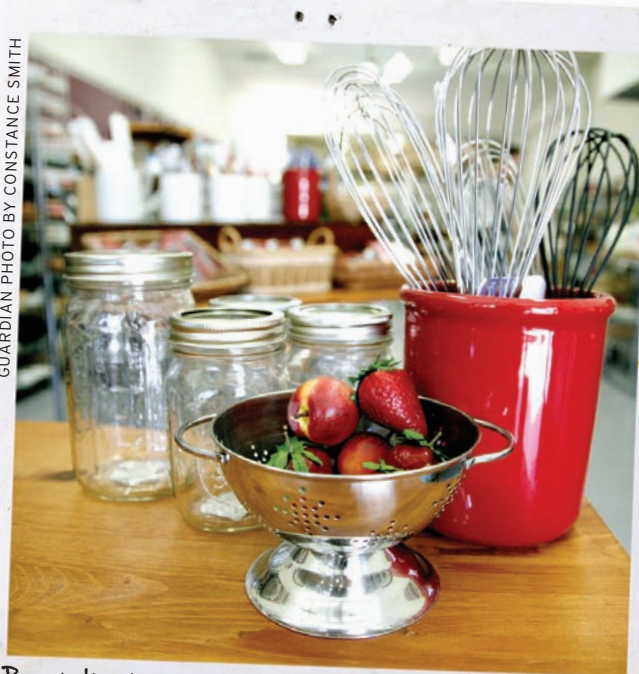
Aquarius Records
and the folks who
work there are pure
awesomeness.

Terry, North Beach

”

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



Best Little Cooking Store That Could:
Cooks Boulevard

BEST LITTLE COOKING STORE THAT COULD

In a world replete with crates, barrels, Williams, and Sonomas, it's easy to forget there's such a thing as an independent cooking store. But **Cooks Boulevard** is just that: an adorable, one-stop shop for reasonably priced cooking paraphernalia, from a pastry scale or Le Creuset to a candy mold or stash of wooden spoons. And if the shop doesn't have what you need, the friendly staff will order it for you. In fact, this Noe Valley gem has everything the big stores have, including online ordering, nationwide shipping, and a well-kept blog of missives about the foodie universe. It even offers cooking classes, on-site knife sharpening, community events such as food drives and book clubs, and CSA boxes of local organic produce delivered to neighborhood clientele. With knowledgeable service and well-stocked shelves, the Boulevard makes it easy for home cooks and professional chefs to shop local. 1309 Castro, SF. (415) 647-2665, www.cooksboulevard.com

BEST BROOKLYN ALTERNATIVE

No *sleep 'til Brooklyn*? Fine. But no *style 'til you reach the Big Apple*? We just can't give you license for that kind of ill, especially since the **Brooklyn Circus** came to town last July. With its East Coast-style awning, living room vibe, and indie

hip-hop style, this boutique might just be the thing to keep those homesick for NYC from buying that JetBlue ticket for one ... more ... week. Want to save your cash just in case? You're welcome to chill out on the leather sofas and listen to Mos Def mixtapes. At the store you can soak in the charm of the Fillmore's colorful energy and history, while checking out the trends that blend Frank Sinatra and Kanye West almost seamlessly. Sure, you could visit the Chicago outpost before going to the original in the store's namesake city, but why bother? Next year's selection will include an expanded line of locally produced goodies — all available without having to brave a sweltering Big City summer. 1525 Fillmore, SF. (415) 359-1999, www.thebkcircus.com

BEST YEAR-ROUND HOLIDAY GIFT BASKET

I know. It's July. The last thing you want to do is think about that stupid holiday shopping season that'll dominate the entire universe in about three months. But the gift baskets at **La Cocina** are worth talking about year-round, not only because purchasing one supports a fantastic organization (dedicated to helping low-income entrepreneurs develop, grow, and establish their businesses) but because the delightful packages really are great gifts

CONTINUES ON PAGE 70 >>

The Dark Entry



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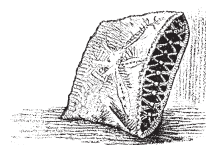
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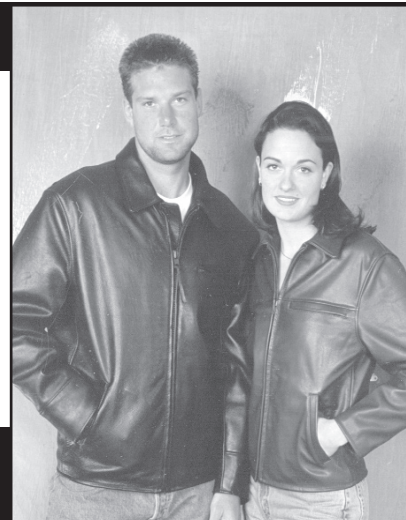
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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

SHOPPING CONT>>

for any occasion. Whether it's your boss's birthday, your friend's dinner party, or simply time to remind your grandmother in the nursing home that you're thinking of her, these baskets full of San Francisco goodness are a thoughtful alternative to flower bouquets and fruit collections ordered through corporations. Orders might include dark chocolate-covered graham crackers from Kika's Treats, spicy yucca sticks, toffee cookies from Sinful Sweets, roasted pumpkin seeds, or shortbread from Clairesquare, starting at \$23. Everything will come with a handwritten note and a whole lot of love.
www.lacocinasf.org

BEST UNDERWATERSCAPING

Aqua Forest Aquarium has reinvented the concept of fish in a bowl. The only store in the nation dedicated to a style of decorating aquariums like natural environments, Aqua Forest boasts an amazing display of live aquatic landscapes that seem directly transplanted from more idyllic waters. With good prices, knowledgeable staff, a focus on freshwater life, and a unique selection of tropical fish, the shop is not only proof that aquarium stores need not be weird and dingy, but that your home fish tank can be a thriving ecosystem rather than a plastic environment with a bubbling castle (OK, a thriving ecosystem *with* a bubbling castle). Part pet store, part live art gallery, Aqua Forest is worth a visit even if

“
Noriega Produce
is organic, but not
tediously nonprofit.
And the guys
who work there
sometimes sing
out loud!”

Jane, Ocean Beach

”



you're not in the market for a sail-fin leopard pleco.
1718 Fillmore, SF. (415) 929-8883,
www.adana-usa.com

BEST FRIDGE FILLERS ON A BUDGET

Remember when we all joked that Whole Foods should be called Whole Paycheck? Little did we realize the joke would be on us when the only paper in our purses would be a Whole Pink Slip. In the new economy, some of us can't afford the luxury of deciding between organic bananas or regular ones — we're trying to figure out which flavor of ramen keeps us full the longest. Luckily, **Duc Loi Supermarket** opened in the Mission just in time. This neighborhood shop is big, bright, clean, well stocked, cheap, and diverse, with a focus on Asian and Latino foods. Here you can get your pork chops and pig snouts, salmon and daikon, tofu and tortilla chips — and still have bus fare for the ride home. In fact, young coconut milk is only 99 cents a can, a whole dollar less than at Whole Foods. 2200 Mission, SF. (415) 551-1772

BEST PLACE TO DISS THE TUBE

Some people go their entire lives buying replacement 20-packs of tube socks from Costco, socks whose suspicious blend of elastic, petroleum products, and God-knows-what signals to wearers

and viewers alike: Warm, shwarm! Fit, shmit! Style, shmyle! Other people, even if they keep their socks encased in boots or shoes, want to know that their foot coverings are just one more indicator of their fashion — and common — sense. Those people go to **Rabat** in Noe Valley, where the sock racks look like a conjuring of the chorus of “Hair”: “curly, fuzzy, snaggy, shaggy, ratty, matty, oily, greasy, fleecy, shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxen, waxen, knotted, polka-dotted, twisted, beaded, braided, powdered, flowered, and confettied; bangled, tangled, spangled, and spaghetted.” Furthermore, the socks are mostly made from recognizable materials like wool, cotton, or fleece. As for you sensible-shoe and wingtip types, not to worry. Rabat also stocks black and white anklets and nude-colored pedis. 4001 24th St., SF (415) 282-7400.
www.rabatshoes.com

BEST BOOKS FOR KIDS YOU DON'T KNOW

Don't let the small storefront at **Alexander Book Company** deter you — this three-story, independent bookstore is packed with stuff that you won't find at Wal-Mart or the book malls. We're particularly impressed with the children's collection — and with the friendly, knowledgeable staff. If you're looking for a birthday present for your

CONTINUES ON PAGE 72 >>



GET THE BEST NEW MUSIC!



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While Manchester Orchestra's debut was an attention-getting shot across the bow, *Mean Everything To Nothing* presents a substantial leap forward in sonic textures and song craft. LP available for \$17.98.

11⁹⁸ CD



STARTIME INTERNATIONAL

WILD LIGHT Adult Nights

New Hampshire's Wild Light plays classic Americana pop that sweeps over you with distinct vocal harmonies complimented by warm and dynamic arrangements. *Catch Wild Light live on August 1st at Slim's!*

11⁹⁸ CD



NETTWERK

HOWLING BELLS Radio Wars

"Singer Juanita Stein's breathless vocals evoke vintage Debbie Harry while nodding towards the swagger of Garbage's Shirley Manson." — *The UK Daily Mail*

14⁹⁸ CD

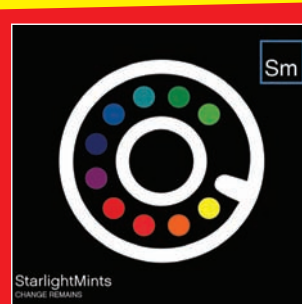


WARP

CLARK Totems Flare

The Berlin-based, UK native's boldest effort to date, featuring breakneck dance, driving techno and baroque melodies. All of the hyperactive intellect and technically dazzling detail you'd expect from this master electronic producer is here. LP available for \$19.98.

12⁹⁸ CD

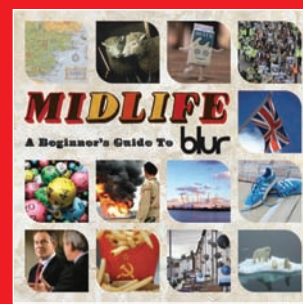


Sm BARSUK

STARLIGHT MINTS Change Remains

Starlight Mints' love for archetypal pop music and AM radio has given birth to their own unusual brand of instrumentally complex, surrealistic pop.

11⁹⁸ CD



VIRGIN

BLUR Midlife: A Beginner's Guide

Midlife represents a comprehensive collection of Blur's biggest hits and favorite album tracks, hand-picked by the band and offering a deep look into the group's entire musical output.

15⁹⁸ CD
2-CD SET



XL RECORDINGS

RICEBOY SLEEPS Riceboy Sleeps

Jon Thor Birgisson (Sigur Ros) and Alex Somers's (Parachutes) new project, Riceboy Sleeps, is awash with tension and stimuli, as well as being frequently and stunningly beautiful.

12⁹⁸ CD



XL RECORDINGS

BLUE ROSES Blue Roses

Laura Groves's influences span genres and generations: from Bartok to Bush, Tiersen to Tears For Fears, Debussy to Du Maurier. "A dizzyingly beautiful set of delicate folk songs." — *NME*
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11⁹⁸ CD



NEW STATE MUSIC

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SHOPPING CONT>>

kid's classmate, or one for an out-of-town niece or nephew — or you just generally want to know what 10-year-old boys who like science fiction are reading these days — ask for Bonnie. She's the children's books buyer, and not only does she have an uncanny knack for figuring out what makes an appropriate gift, chances are whatever the book is, she's already read it.
50 Second St., SF. (415) 495-2992,
www.alexanderbook.com

BEST PLACE TO SELL THE CLOTHES OFF YOUR BACK

If you think Buffalo Exchange and Crossroads are the only places to trade your Diors for dollars, you're missing out. **Urbanity**, Angela Cadogan's North Berkeley boutique, is hands down the best place to consign in the Bay. The spot is classy but not uppity, your commission is 30 percent of what your item pulls in, and, best of all, you'd actually want to shop there. Cadogan has a careful eye for fashion, choosing pieces that deserve a spot in your closet for prices that won't burn a hole in your wallet. Want an even

better deal on those Miu Miu pumps or that YSL dress? Return every 30 days, when items that haven't sold yet are reduced by 40 percent. But good luck playing the waiting game against Urbanity's savvy regulars — they've been eyeing those Pradas longer than you have.
1887 Solano, Berk. (510) 524-7467,
www.shopurbanity.com

BEST TIME MACHINE

Ever wish you could be a character in a period piece, writing love letters on a typewriter to your distant paramour while perched upon a baroque upholstered chair? We can't get you a role in a movie, but we can send you to the **Perish Trust**, where you'll find everything you need to create a funky antique film set of your very own. Proprietor-curator team Rod Hipskind and Kelly Ishikawa have dedicated themselves to making their wares as fun to browse through as to buy, carefully selecting original artwork, vintage folding rulers, taxidermied fowl, out-of-print books, and myriad other antique odds-and-ends from across the nation. As if that weren't enough, this Divisadero shop also

carries Hooker's Sweet Treats old world-style gourmet chocolate caramels — and that's definitely something to write home about.
728 Divisadero, SF.
www.theperishtrust.com

BEST MISSION MAKEOVER

If Hayes Valley's indie-retailer RAG (Residents Apparel Gallery) bedded the Lower Haight's design co-op Trunk, their love child might look (and act) a lot like **Mission Statement**. With a focus on local designers and a philosophy of getting artists involved with the store, the 18th Street shop has all the eclectic style of RAG and all the collaborative spirit of Trunk — all with a distinctly Mission District vibe. Much like its namesake neighborhood, this shop has a little of everything: mineral makeup, fedoras adorned with spray-painted designs, multiwrap dresses, graphic tees, and more. Between the wares of the eight designers who work and play at the co-op, you might find everything you need for a head-to-toe makeover — including accessorizing advice, custom designing, and tailoring by co-owner Estrella Tadeo. You may

never need to leave the Valencia corridor again.
3458-A 18th St., SF. (415) 255-7457,
www.missionstatementsf.com

BEST WALL OF BEER

Beer-shopping at **Healthy Spirits** might ruin you. Never again will you be able to stroll into a regular suds shop, eye the refrigerated walk-in, and feign glee: "Oh, wow, they have Wolaver's *and* Fat Tire." The selection at Healthy Spirits makes the inventory at almost all other beer shops in San Francisco — nay, the fermented universe — look pedestrian. First-time customers sometimes experience sticker shock, but most quickly understand that while hops and yeast and grain are cheap, hops and yeast and grain and *genius* are not. Should you require assistance in navigating the intriguing and eclectic wall of beer, owner Rami Barqawi and his staff will guide you and your palate to the perfect brew. Once you've got the right tippie, you can choose from the standard corner-store sundries, including coffee, wine, ice cream, and snacks. Chief among them is the housemade hummus (strong on the lemon juice, just the

way we like it). Being ruined never tasted so good.
2299 15th St., SF. (415) 255-0610,
healthy-spirits.blogspot.com

BEST PLACE TO CHANNEL YOUR INNER BOB VILLA

When is a junkyard not *just* a junkyard? When you wander through its labyrinth of plywood, bicycle tires, and window panes only to stumble upon an intricately carved and perfectly preserved fireplace mantle which, according to a handwritten note taped to it, is "circa 1900." This is the kind of thing that happens at **Building Resources**, an open air, DIY-er's dream on the outskirts of Dogpatch, which just happens to be the city's only source for recycled building and landscape materials. Maybe you'll come here looking for something simple: a light fixture, a doorknob, a few pieces of tile. You'll find all that. You'll also find things you never knew you coveted, like a beautiful (and dirt cheap) claw-foot bathtub that makes you long to redo your own bathroom, even though you don't own tools and know nothing about plumbing. No worries. That's what HGTV is for.



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GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



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www.buildingresources.org

BEST WAY TO SHOP LOCAL

It's impossible not to be impressed with the selection at **Collage**, the tiny jewel-box of a shop perched atop Potrero Hill. The home décor store and gallery specializes in typography and signage, refurbished clocks and cameras, clothing, unique furniture, and all kinds of objects reinvented and repurposed to fit in a hip, happy home. But what we like best is owner Delisa Sage's commitment to supporting the local community and economy. Not only does she host workshops on the art of fine-art collage, she carries a gorgeous selection of jewelry made exclusively by local woman artists. Whether you're looking for knit necklaces, Scrabble pieces, typewriter keys, or an antiqued kitchen island, you'll find 'em here. And every dollar you spend supports San Francisco, going toward a sandwich at Hazel's, or a cup of joe at Farley's, or an artist's SoMa warehouse rent. Maybe capitalism can work.

1345 18th St., SF. (415) 282-4401,
www.collage-gallery.com

BEST BRAND-NEW VINTAGE STYLE

There's something grandmothers seem to understand that the Forever 21, H&M, Gap generation (not to mention the hippies in between) often miss: the value of elegant, tailored, designer classics that last a lifetime. Plus, thanks to living through the Great Depression, they know a good bargain. Luckily, **White Rose** got grandma's memo. This tiny, jam-packed West Portal shop is dedicated to classy, timeless, well-made style, from boiled wool-embroidered black coats to Dolce handbags. Though the shelves (stacked with sweaters) and racks (overhung with black pants) may resemble those in a consignment or thrift store, White Rose is stocked full of new fashions collected from international travels, catalog sales, or American fabricators. In fact, it's all part of the plan of the owner — who is reputed to have been a fashion model in the '50s — to bring elegant chemises, tailored blouses, and dresses for all sizes and ages to the masses. The real price? You must have the patience to sort through the remarkable inventory.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 74 »



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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

SHOPPING CONT>>

242 W. Portal, SF. (415) 681-5411

BEST BOUTIQUE FOR BUNHEADS

It seems you can get yoga pants or Lycra leotards just about anywhere these days (hello, American Apparel). But elastic waists and spaghetti straps alone do not make for good sportswear. **SF Dancewear** knows that having clothes and footwear designed specifically for your craft — whether ballroom dance, gymnastics, theater, contact improv, or one of the good old standards like tap, jazz, or ballet — makes all the difference. This is why they've been selling everything from Capezio tap shoes to performance bras since 1975. The shop is lovely. There are clear boxes of pointe shoes nestled together like clean, shiny baby pigs; glittering displays of ballroom dance pumps; racks of colorful tulle, ruched nylon, patterned Lycra; and a rope draped with the cutest, tiniest tutus you ever did see. The store is staffed by professional dancers who're not only trained to find the perfect fit but have tested most products on a major stage. And though your salesclerk may dance with Alonzo King's Lines Ballet or have a regular gig at the S.F. Opera, they won't scoff at middle-aged novice salsa dancers or plus-size burlesqueers looking for fishnets and character shoes. Unlike the competitive world of dance studios, this retail shop is friendly and open to anyone who likes to move.

659 Mission, SF. (415) 882-7087; 5900 College, Oakl. (510) 655-3608, www.sfdancewear.com

BEST GIFTS FOR YESTERYEAR'S KIDS

We weren't sure it could get any better — or weirder — than Paxton Gate, that Mission District palace of science, nature, and dead things. But then the owner, whose first trade was landscape architecture, opened up **Paxton Gate Curiosities for Kids** down the street, and lo and behold, ever more awesomeness was achieved. Keeping the original store's naturalist vibe but leaving behind some of its adults-only potential creepiness, this shop focuses on educational toys, vintage games, art supplies, and an eclectic selection of books sure to delight the twisted child in all of us. From handblown marbles to wooden puzzles, agate keychains to stop-motion booklets, and Lucite insects to Charlie Chaplin paper doll kits,

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH



Best Borrowed Clothes: La Library

everything here seems to be made for shorties from another time — an arguably better one, when kids rooted around in the dirt and made up rules for imaginary games and didn't wear G-string underwear. 766 Valencia, SF. (415) 252-9990, www.paxtongate.com

BEST DAILY TRUNK SHOW

San Francisco sure does love its trunk shows: all those funky people hawking their one-of-a-kind wares at one-of-a-kind prices. The only problem? *Shows* happen intermittently (though with increasing frequency in the pre-Burning Man frenzy). Lucky for us, Miranda Caroligne — the goddess who makes magic with fabric scraps and a surger — co-founded **Trunk**, an eclectic indie designer showcase with a permanent address. The Lower Haight shop not only features creative dresses, hoodies, jewelry, and menswear by a number of artists, but also functions as an official California Cooperative Corporation, managed and run by all its 23 members. That means when you purchase your Kayo Anime one-piece, Ghetto Goldilocks vest, or Lucid Dawn corset, you're supporting an independent business *and* the indepen-

dent local artists who call it home. 544 Haight, SF. (415) 861-5310, www.trunksf.com

BEST PLACE TO GET IRIE WITH YOUR OLLIE

Skate culture has come a long way since its early surfer punk days. Now what used to be its own subculture encompasses a whole spectrum of subs, including dreadheaded, jah-lovin', reggae pumpin' riders. And **Culture Skate** is just the store for those who lean more toward Bob Marley than Jello Biafra. The Rasta-colored Mission shop features bamboo skate boards, hemp clothing, glass pipes, a whole slew of products by companies such as Creation and Satori, and vinyl records spanning genres like ska, reggaeton, dub, and, of course, good old reggae. Stop by to catch a glimpse of local pros — such as Ron Allen, Matt Pailles, and Karl Watson. But don't think you have to be a skater to shop here: plenty of people stop by simply for the environmentally-friendly duds made with irie style.

214 Valencia, SF. (415) 437-4758, www.cultureskate.com **SFBG**

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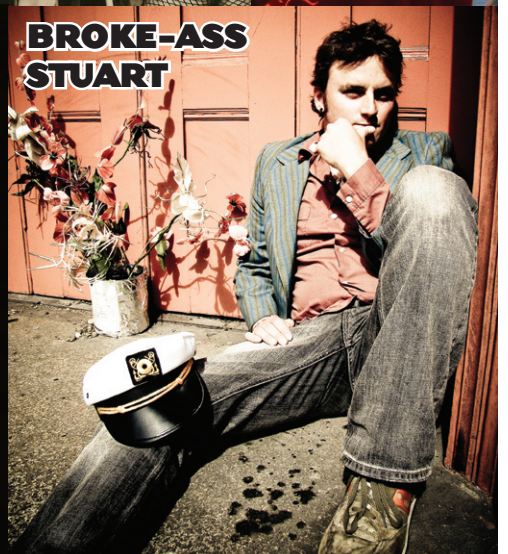
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EDITORS PICKS

BEST FAIR THAT'S UP YOURS

While the Folsom Street Fair has grown into an international destination for kinksters and the tourists who ogle them, the **Up Your Alley Fair** has become increasingly important as a more intimate oasis for local leatherheads who remember the scene's old days. The fair — better known as Dore Alley Fair, though the event was named when it started in 1985 on a different street — has brought much-needed attention to the oft-overlooked SoMa neighborhood. We love the organization's dedication to supporting groups and charities like the Episcopal Community Services, AIDS Emergency Fund, and Transgender Law Center. What we don't love is that this event may be the next target on

the Police Department's Death of Fun Crusade. Show your support this year so that Up Your Alley doesn't go the way of Castro Halloween.

Sunday, July 26, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dore Alley, between Folsom and Howard.
www.folsomstreetevents.org/alley

BEST SEX AND SERVICE

Having sex doesn't take much: a partner (or not), a place, a modicum of desire. But *feeling* sexy isn't always so easy — especially if you're in a relationship that has reached the sweatpants, TV-dinner, oral-sex-what? stage. Enter **Intima Girl**, the Marina's boudoir of a boutique. The small, upscale shop stocks a variety of items meant to up the ante in the bedroom, from sex toys to lotions to lingerie, most geared toward girls (and their partners) who want a little class in their kink. Think sleek vibrators, high-end candles, silk bondage ropes, and sex books that could sit on your cof-

fee table. But Intima Girl doesn't skimp on the fun. Adventurous types can head home with an edible candy bra, assless panties, and metallic condom compacts for stylish safe-sex on the go. Best of all, the owner and staff are as knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful as you always wished your big sister would be.

3047 Fillmore, SF. (415) 563-1202,
www.intima-online.com

BEST SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

Dim, crimson lighting. The Stones on the sound system. Attractive youngsomethings lounging languidly on plush couches. And there, across the room, a tall, lean brunette, sipping a PBR, staring through the haze. Will **Amber**, the worker-owned watering hole with stiff drinks and legal cigarette smoking (thanks to labor law loopholes), be the setting of your "How

CONTINUES ON PAGE 78 »



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BEST OF THE BAY 2009

SEX AND ROMANCE CONT>>

We Met” story? Are those the tears of love at first sight? If you’re not a smoker, your eyes might just be irritated or you might be frustrated knowing tonight’s bar clothes will smell when you wear them to work tomorrow. But for those brave (stupid? nah) few who still toke the tobacco stick, this Duboce Triangle destination is a sexy, sultry, *smoky* oasis in a world that’s become increasingly cold (literally) to the dwindling minority. Just for this moment, in this beautiful bar out of time, nothing exists but you and your beloved. Not work. Not cancer. Maybe not even a future for your relationship. But what does it matter? Since the first release of studies on the dangers of smoking, people who continue to puff have lived in the *here and now*. And at Amber, there’s no better place to be *now* than *here*.

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BEST WEDDING SINGERS WHO AREN'T ADAM SANDLER

You’re getting married to the love of your life, and every member of your extended families will be in attendance, including your Aunt Jolene, who lives in an RV in the Nevada desert and talks to inanimate objects, *and* your future spouse’s Harvard-educated litter, all flying in from Martha’s Vineyard. How are you going to pick a wedding band that will get everyone — from your lumpy litigator father-in-law-to-be to your own Crazy Uncle Cletus — on their feet dancing? **Tainted Love**, the best ’80s tribute band since *The Wedding Singer*, is the answer. This talented seven-piece act regularly

“

Sparkly Devil,
the modern day
burlesquer, is, er, a
titillating revelation.

Jason, Richmond

”

draws sold-out crowds to venues like Bimbo’s and Red Devil Lounge, while also happily playing private parties, corporate events, and, yes, weddings. Now that ’80s music is almost the golden oldies, you can count on the fact that Love’s renditions of “Purple Rain,” “Sweet Child o’ Mine,” and, of course, “White Wedding” will appeal to all the guests on your list — no matter how far they traveled (or how much they put in for the ceremony).
(510) 655-7926, www.taintedlove.com

BEST COCK RING FOR THE CREATIVE CLASS

What’s wrong with loving a product for its design? That’s really why Apple fanatics love all things “i.” And that’s why we lust after sex toys from **Jimmyjane**, the Potrero Hill pleasure purveyors whose vibes, games, and accessories would look as natural in a museum gift shop as they would in your minimalist, modern bedroom. The Form 6 vibrator looks like a cross between a stylized pen and a high-end electric toothbrush, while the Little Chromas model has the sleek grace of a bullet, or a small cigar (we refuse to make *that* joke). And Jimmyjane’s Usual Suspects line is nothing short of inspired — celebrating both form and function by interpreting classic toys, in flawless white. Yes, the company does seem to cater to Audi drivers and iPhone users — collaborating on expensive special editions with well-known designers and bragging about appearances on cable TV shows. But we can’t argue with the nontoxic materials and the unprecedented one-year warranty. And the fact that they just *look so cool*.
www.jimmyjane.com. Available at Good Vibrations, various locations.
www.goodvibrations.com

BEST QUEER PORN

The problem with mainstream porn is that most of it is made in the San Fernando Valley by brainless douche bags and lazy ex-cheerleaders looking for a quick buck. But this is San Francisco. This is the art capital of the world, the home of the free thinker, the land of the awesome. Can’t we get some porn made for us? Yes, we can! Yes, we can! If you’re as sick of Barbie Doll smut as we are, then you should know about local filmmaker-producer-writer-artist Courtney Trouble. Trouble is the founder of a queer porn site called **Nofauxxx.com** (“queer” as in not just homo, but alternative as well). She’s the final word when it comes to smut with attitude, character,

and soul. Not only is No Fauxxxx the oldest running queer porn site on the Internet, it’s also the only spot that mixes alt, gay, lesbian, straight, trans, kink, and BBW content. It’s sexy, artsy, entertaining, all-inclusive, and totally DIY. In a word: ours.
www.nofauxxx.com

BEST CONTEST FOR WANKERS

The **Masturbate-a-thon** is an annual pledge drive for the Center for Sex and Culture during which people gang up in a hot and sweaty room to watch each other jerk off for an entire day. Sounds like fun, right? But what if you’re not an exhibitionist? No worries. The whole show (held in May, which is Masturbation Month) is broadcast live on the Internet so that shy people can join in too. Categories include “Most Money Raised,” “Most Orgasms,” and “Longest Squirt,” and the winners in each division receive sexy prizes from Good Vibrations (and perhaps a lifetime of wishing Google and YouTube were never invented). Score! Exhibitionists, porn addicts, and the rest of us are encouraged to ogle, vote, and even participate alongside certified wank-masters such as Dr. Carol Queen, Fellatio Brown, and Masanobu Sato, a



Best XXX XX in the Castro:
Femina Potens

GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH

Japanese toymaker who holds the world record for “Longest Time Spent Masturbating” (to be fair, it should be noted that his company, Tenga, makes masturbation cups for men). The time to beat next year is nine hours and 58 minutes, so fire up Fleshbot.com now and start practicing. You can be sure that’s what Masanobu is doing.
www.masturbate-a-thon.com

BEST PLACE TO PARK WITH YOUR PARAMOUR

The place where **Broadway meets Lyon** and dead-ends into the edge of the Presidio is almost always empty. Here, the steep angle of the land affords swoon-inducing vistas of the Marina, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the bay, and tranquility hovers amid the perfectly manicured gardens and the improbably large and ornate houses to which they are attached. The drawback? If you’re not in the mood for a workout on the Lyon steps, there’s not really anything to do here except park, which, if you’ve brought an attractive friend along for the ride, is no drawback at all. If there’s an ounce of chemistry, the solitude and stunning view will have you two making out in the backseat of your car. In fact, come here with someone for whom you have feelings that run deeper than lust, and you may just

be inspired to make things official. There are few better spectacular, proposal-inducing viewpoints in our spectacular, proposal-inducing city that haven't been completely co-opted by tourists. Relationship-phobes and impulsive romantics, consider yourself forewarned. Broadway at Lyon

BEST TASSELS WITH TALENT

Burlesque is bawdy. It's lowbrow. It's often political, and always boundary-pushing. But sexy? Not

necessarily. As the new burlesque movement merges with circus and performance arts, it sometimes sacrifices the delight of the tease in favor of mere shock and awe. But **Rose Pistola** knows how to balance her solo performances so they get your panties wet *and* in a bunch. The classic beauty has graced stages in an octopus skirt, an Elvis costume, a mullet, a Victorian mime outfit, and a full tulle gown (that she rolled out of) — always mastering a blend of humor and class.

But it's not just her performances at places like Hubba Hubba Revue and Bohemian Carnival that rev our engines — Pistola also designs costumes, including tiny hats, vinyl corsets, and almost all of her fabulous stage get-ups. What could be sexier than a woman with pasties *and* a pincushion? How about one who plays with fire? Oh yeah, Pistola does that too. www.myspace.com/rosepistola

BEST MEETING GROUND FOR SWINGERS

Not big on commitment? At **Lindy in the Park**, the weekly swing dance party that's been uniting partners with fancy footwork since 1996, change companions as often as you change your mind. With free lessons starting at 11 a.m. and open to the public, it's the perfect place to flirt with fellow Lindy Hop fans and then flee. But this outdoor event near the de Young Museum isn't just for eternally happy singles.

Couples know the best thing about the swingout is the swing-back-in. And once you've seen your honey doing the sugar push, you might just find that your hip-to-hip leads to lip to lip. JFK Dr. (between 8th and 10th avenues), Golden Gate Park, SF. www.lindyinthepark.com

BEST PLACE TO PICK UP CHICKS (WHO LIKE CHICKS)

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CONTINUES ON PAGE 80 »



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Will Downing

Bobby Caldwell



Frankie Lee
Chino Espinoza y Los Duenos Del Son
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SEX AND ROMANCE CONT.

blocking — whether it's using a friend to pose as a lover to deter unwanted advances, or stopping a fellow suitor from stealing your paramour with their charm and free drinks — the idea is clear: there's a third-party penis, and its plans must be thwarted. What better name, then, for a dance night geared toward girl-on-girl love? But it's not just clever nomenclature that fuels our love for **Cockblock**, the monthly lesbian dance party at the Rickshaw Stop. It's the fact that these get-togethers feature infectious music, cheap drinks, good vibes, and that rare chance for girls-who-like-girls to get together without sweaty heteros trying to get in the way (or cast them in their personal porn fantasies). Plus, queer ladies should have at least one surefire place other than the Lex to scope out a hottie.

Second Saturdays, Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell, SF. www.cockblocksf.com

BEST CIRCLE TO JOIN AND JERK

Masturbation need not be a covert mission reserved for solo artists behind bedroom doors or within shower stalls. If you're the type who is more of a team player, you might like **SF Jacks**, a group of like-minded men who appreciate a good circle jerk. The group has been perfecting its "loose and goofy environment" for 26 years, regularly drawing as many as 70 Jacks and Joes who want to lose their clothes — and their inhibitions — together. Meetings are held every second and fourth Monday at the

Center for Sex and Culture, where lube and refreshments are provided. Just show up with your \$7 donation (though no one's turned away for lack of funds), ready to do the hand jive. But just remember to follow the rules. You can touch your dick, but don't be one.

Second and fourth Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$7. Center for Sex and Culture, 1519 Mission, SF. (415) 267-6999, www.sfjacks.com

BEST WAY TO GET YOUR DATE SWEATY

Dinner and a movie, a night at the bar, a drive down the coast — all these date options have their merits. But when you're trying to plan a partner activity that's off the beaten path, consider renting bikes from **Golden Gate Park Bike and Skate** and exploring less charted territory (especially on Sundays, when Golden Gate is closed to car traffic). For just \$5 an hour, you can check out hidden trails, watch the legendary bison do whatever it is bison do, and take a breather by the ocean. Not only will you get beautiful views (of park and partner), but the chemicals you release while exercising will bring you and your paramour closer together. This is an especially good thing if you're looking to take your relationship to the next level, because producing endorphins together might just lead to ... uh ... producing endorphins together. 3038 Fulton, SF. (415) 668-1117, www.goldengateparkbikeandskate.com

BEST PLACE TO PARTY LIKE A PORN STAR

Unbeknownst to pretty much everyone, **Dogpatch Studios**, the nondescript warehouse on Tennessee Street marked by a benign and vaguely cutesy flag featuring a black Labrador, is where the Mitchell Brothers filmed *Behind the Green Door*, the first feature-length hardcore porn film to be widely released in the United States. Today, with enough green of your own, you can host a private event inside this historic sex landmark. While the venue still welcomes movie shoots, your options are unlimited. Dogpatch Studios will provide you with flexible floor plans, kitchen facilities, wireless internet, lighting services, staffing, and just about anything else you require, whether it's for a sedate corporate retreat, a no-holds-barred bacchanal, or even a wedding. Because nothing says everlasting love quite like tying the knot where Marilyn Chambers (R.I.P.) filmed money shots. 991 Tennessee, SF. (415) 641-3017, www.dogpatchstudios.com

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BEST OF THE BAY 2009



BEST XXX XX IN THE CASTRO

Remember when the Castro was just a big boys' club? That's changed somewhat, thanks in no small part to **Femina Potens**, the nonprofit art gallery dedicated to women, transgendered folk, kink, and the sex worker community that anchors the corner of Market and Sanchez. Cofounded by renaissance porn star and queer BDSM queen Madison Young, the cozy spot has been hosting exhibits, workshops, spoken word performances, film screenings, and readings by queer literary and artistic legends like Michelle Tea, Annie Sprinkle, and Inga Muscio since 2001 — and recently has added health and wellness programming into the mix. With showcases tackling topics from body image to safer sex, suicide prevention, and breast cancer awareness, there's no question that what Femina Potens does is important. But we think art shows about bondage and performances about breasts are also just damn sexy. Plus, it's about time the Castro got a little more double-X (chromosome) action. 2199 Market, SF. (415) 864-1558, www.feminapotens.org

BEST KINKY DINNER

Dark Tasting is the most unintentionally kinky thing to happen

to dining since the invention of the hot dog. The very concept sounds like something out of a Marquis de Sade novel. The San Francisco group believes that sight deprivation heightens the sensory experience of having a meal, from the taste, smell, and feel of your food, to the sound of your company's voices. Before the meal is served, diners are blindfolded and rendered submissive. (Doesn't that alone sound like something out of a deliciously depraved Japanese bondage flick involving nyotaimori?) Sponsored by TasteTV and held at a different venue once every two months, Dark Tasting events offer gourmet multicourse meals with wine pairings, with the caveat that you have to pay \$95 per person and can't see what you're eating. Events are described as a "sensual dining experience," and given that no one can see what a pervert you are, you can freely grope your partner under the table without eliciting "Get a room!" remarks from fellow diners. If you're into BDSM, we highly recommend Dark Tasting as a romantic prelude to being hog-tied in a cage (where the real fun begins).

www.darktasting.com **SFBG**

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25th Street and Utah, SF

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Rossi Pool
600 Arguello, SF. (415) 666-7014

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Angel Island

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Twin Peaks

BEST PLACE TO WATCH THE SUNSET

Ocean Beach

BEST PLACE TO SEE THE STARS

Mount Tamalpais

BEST CITY VISTA

Bernal Hill

EDITORS PICKS

BEST "HOLY SH*T!"

Although it has only been a mere season and a half since Barry Bonds went loudly into a toxic sunset, the San Francisco Giants have already refocused with a formidable team of unlikely upstarts that boasts one of the best records in the National League. Built around a colorful but humble lineup of players with nicknames like the Freak, Big Unit, and Kung Fu Panda, the current Giants roster is everything that Bonds was not — egoless, team-oriented, and free of baggage. And just as the Tim Lincecum-led pitching staff was shaping up as the team's best asset for a successful playoff bid, along comes 26-year-old left-hander Jonathan Sanchez, from a demotion in the bullpen, to throw a masterpiece of a pitching performance. The **Sanchez no-hitter** against the Padres on July 10 was

the team's first since 1976. It provided an up-from-the-ashes victory that invoked tremendous optimism for the future, to the point where you can already hear it, clear with conviction and confidence: "Beat L.A.! Beat L.A.!"

BEST KID-FRIENDLY SUICIDE RUN

Never underestimate the urge — especially in somber, grizzle-haired grown-ups and perfectly sensible adults — to jam shiny, decal-stickered helmets on one's head before shrieking downhill in plastic toy vehicles, playfully jockeying with others all the way to the bottom. Having just completed its triumphant ninth annual run this past Easter, the annual **Bring Your Own Big Wheel** race is spastic, daredevil fun. Any form of transport is legal, as long as it's human-powered and about a third your size. Past races have seen some imaginative entries: office chairs figured in one racer's wobbly run, while others constructed iffy

I would sell my very soul for the sunset on Pacifica Pier.

Lynn, Pacifica

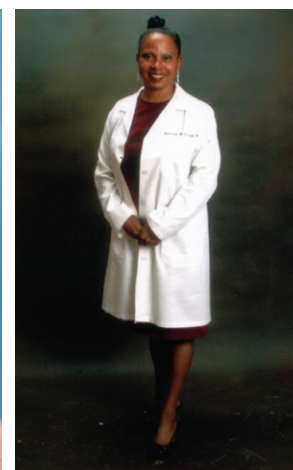
rides from wood planks, masking tape, and a few ingeniously placed nails. Outlandish costumes never hurt, either: Big Bird, bunnies, and aliens run rampant. Once held on Lombard Street, the event now careens down Potrero Hill's twistier Vermont Street. The only thing you can't bring is alcohol. Shucks. www.jonbrumit.com/byobw

CONTINUES ON PAGE 84 »



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GUARDIAN PHOTO BY CONSTANCE SMITH

Best of the Bay on the Bay: Ruby Sailing

OUTDOORS AND SPORTS CONT>>

BEST WORKOUT WITH A TWIST

Is it wrong to be kind of turned on by the Victorian-bondage-looking machines at **San Francisco Gyrotonic**? Even the word "Gyrotonic" makes us gyrate suggestively in our minds. (Pervs!) Intimately connected to the dance community, the Gyrotonic exercise program is an intriguing new approach to working out. The Gyrotonic Expansion System was invented in the 1950s by ballet dancer Juliu Horvath after an Achilles injury left him unable to dance. The workout uses a

contraption with raised pulleys, similar to a Pilates machine, but moves your joints in a circular rather than linear motion, training the body to be more flexible. Classes are taught by former ballerinas who've danced in companies such as the San Francisco Ballet, New York's School of American Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera's American Ballet Theatre, and San Francisco's Alonzo King's LINES. In terms of dance workouts, nothing could be further from Billy Blanks' Tae Bo. The studio attracts a fleet of nimble, limber dance-types, but beginners should not be intimidated, nor overexcited.

26 Seventh St. # 4, SF. (415) 863-3719, www.sfgyrotonic.com

BEST YO-YO WHAT'S UP

If we've learned anything from the most recent technological revolution, it's that nerds are way cooler than we thought they were. "I'm a music nerd," people will proudly say, or "I'm an art nerd." Identifying as a nerd grants substantial cultural capital — and not just in a lame hipster sense, like when people wear glasses without lenses or pretend to appreciate B-movies. Skateboarders, cyclists, and gamers are good examples of this phenomenon, but none of these subcultures has a more nonconformist, fuck-you attitude than that of the gonzo yo-yo enthusiast. It's true that yo-yo

champion David Capurro and the other members of his local club, the **Spin Doctors**, probably spend their weekends practicing barrel rolls and smashers instead of drinking, dancing, and posing. But, well, come on, that shit's for nerds. Cool people have better things to do ... like winning tournaments, inventing new tricks, and traveling the world to battle other crews.

www.spindox.org

BEST WAY TO GET BLOWN AWAY

Perhaps you've seen kiteboarders skimming across the water like wakeboarders and fluttering aloft, gliding like skydivers. If you've yearned to partake in the strange but intriguing sport of kiteboarding, but didn't know where to start, look no further than **Boardsports School and Shop**. With three locations and plenty of certified instructors, it's the most facilitative wind and board shop on the bay. Whether it's kitesurfing, windsurfing, kiteboarding on land, or even stand-up paddle boarding, the staff can help you find what you're after (don't be put off by the dude-bro locutions) and teach you how to catch some major air safely. Boardsports has exclusive teaching rights in two of the bay's best beginner spots, Alameda's Crown Beach and Coyote Point in San Mateo, and offers lessons for first-time kite flyers or can arrange pro instruction for experienced boarders



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Wednesday Sept. 23	6PM	7:03PM	Half Full	8:30PM
Wednesday Oct. 7	5:45PM	6:45PM	Full	8:15PM
Wednesday Oct. 21	5:30PM	6:33PM	Dark	8PM
Wednesday Nov. 4	5PM	6:07PM	Full	7:30PM

For Information and Reservations: 510-627-1215 or www.usspotomac.org

“

The Presidio is my
pantheist joy.

Barbara, Presidio Heights

”

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

looking to push their skills to the next level. Boardsports also offers tidy deals on kite packages and equipment to help you lift off without lifting your wallet. (415) 385-1224, www.boardsportsschool.com

BEST WET PUCKS

The Brits have started some internationally contagious sports, like football (soccer) and cricket. Now underwater hockey, which English divers created in the 1950s, is grabbing Americans' attention. Locals are quickly jumping into the game with the **San Francisco Underwater Hockey** club. If you like swimming, dip your toes in new water and give it a shot. Sean Avent of the San Francisco Sea Lions club team explains its appeal: "Holding your breath, wearing a Speedo, and swimming after a lead puck on the bottom of a swimming pool is no more obtuse than trying to pummel a guy who is carrying a pigskin ball and armored in high-tech plastic. People, in general, are just more familiar with the latter of the two obtuse sports. And the first is just way more fun." Pay \$4 at the door of one of the games to try it out, or join the club and play in the Presidio or Bayview pools at a low cost. www.underwater-society.org/uwhockey/sanfran

BEST YOGA WITH THE FISHES

Million Fishes Gallery, one of our favorite artist collectives in San Francisco, isn't just an awesome place to see great exhibits by a revolving door of local artists and to catch raging late-night shows featuring bands like Jonas Reinhardt, Erase Errata, Tussle, and Lemonade. It also provides an effective and inexpensive way to get your rejuvenating twice-weekly yoga fix. Instructor Beth Hurley teaches a 90-minute vinyasa yoga class from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the gallery's yoga studio (yeah, this artist space comes with its own yoga studio) that draws a nice mix of artists, Mission locals, yoga enthusiasts, and those who see the benefit in working out before hitting up El Metate next door. Hurley's sessions are \$7 to \$11, which firmly places them among the least expensive yoga classes in San Francisco, and safeguards you from having to deal with yuppie yogis in head-to-toe Lululemon. 2829 23rd St., SF. www.millionfishes.com

“

Flying on my bike past the beautiful houses of Lake Street is like a Peter Pan-esque dream.

Amman, Outer Richmond

”

BEST EYE-WATERING MEMORABILIA

Mission restaurateur Scott Youkilis has turned out quality American fare at Maverick for a few years now, while his brother Kevin continues to play at an MVP pace for the Boston Red Sox. Scott bottles a great homemade hot sauce; Kevin hits two-out home runs in the bottom of the ninth against the New York Yankees. Could there possibly be a way to merge these exceptional fraternal talents? Voilà: **Youk's Hot Sauce**, a condiment that attempts to bottle the potency of Kevin's hitting abilities with the flavor of Scott's Southern-tinged cuisine. Available at Maverick or online, bottles go for \$10 each, or \$25 with Kevin's autograph, and portions of all proceeds go to Kevin's charity, Youk's Hits for Kids. It's a hot souvenir from a future Hall of Famer for the legions of Red Sox fans that make the Bay Area their home away from Fenway. 3316 17th St., SF. (415) 863-3061, www.sfmaverick.com, www.youkshotsauce.com

BEST NATIVE WORKOUT

When it comes to getting in shape, it's almost a crime to have a gym membership in San Francisco. We live in the almost perpetually golden state of California, not Wisconsin in the third week of January. So get the hell outside and tackle some hills or run along the beaches. Better yet, do both with the **Baker Beach Sand Ladder**. Long known to local triathletes as an endurance-crushing beast,

CONTINUES ON PAGE 86 >>



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SINGLES PARTIES

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AUG 1	Dance on the Bay with Light Buffet, Burlingame
AUG 6	Singles Mixer & Live Band Dance, Los Gatos
AUG 7	Singles Night at Kodiak Jack's, Petaluma
AUG 8	Shy Men...and the Women Who Love Them, San Francisco
AUG 11	Marin Singles Mixer, Novato
AUG 14	Grand Opening Party, Berkeley
AUG 15	Art & Wine Tasting Party, San Francisco
AUG 21	Best of the Men Dance, Concord
AUG 22	Hot August Night Dance, Santa Clara
AUG 28	National Single Cougars Convention, Palo Alto
AUG 29	Lock & Key Dance, San Rafael
SEPT 6	Vine Tasting Party, Windsor
OCT 10/11	Mediterranean Singles Cruise,

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OUTDOORS AND SPORTS CONT>>

the sand ladder is 400 sheer steps of pulse-pounding “I think I’m gonna die” workout, set against the spectacular backdrop of the Pacific Ocean flowing into the Golden Gate. Minus the cardiac arrest, it sure beats the fluorescent lighting, smelly funk, and steroidal carnival music of your local gym. The simple fact of the matter is that when you can run nonstop to the top of the sand ladder you’re officially in good shape. And best of all, it’s free.

25th Ave. and El Camino del Mar, SF.
www.nps.gov

BEST BITCH-SLAP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Chevron has always been one of the Bay Area’s more vile corporations, whether it’s lobbying aggressively against global warming legislation or polluting communities from Richmond to Ecuador, all the while greenwashing its image with warm and fuzzy (and highly deceptive) advertising campaigns. That’s why we love to see groups such as the rainforest-protecting **Amazon Watch** and its anti-Chevron allies giving a little something back. Before this year’s Chevron shareholders meeting in San Francisco, activists plastered fake Chevron ads (“I will not complain about my asthma” and “I will give my baby contaminated water”) all over the city and staged creative protests outside the event. Ditto when Chevron CEO David O’Reilly spoke at the Commonwealth Club in May, sending Chevron goons into a paranoid frenzy. Amazon Watch and other groups are winning some key

battles — voters recently approved steep tax increases on Chevron’s Richmond refinery, and a judge rejected plans to expand the facility. To which we can only say, “Hit ‘em again!”
www.amazonwatch.org

BEST PUBLIC ACOUSTIC COCOON

Ear-piercing squeals, gut-rumbling skronks, the occasional wet fart sound — these are the unfortunate hallmarks of beginning brass instrumentalists. Those living in a city as dense and sensitive as our own have it rough when they want to work out their kinks: neighbors who sleep during the day or get up early yell at them, passersby take none too kindly to the squawking on busy sidewalks, and sound-proofed studio space is economically out of reach. For all who need a place to practice, there’s the blessing of the **Conservatory Drive tunnel**, which passes under John F. Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park. An array of practicing jazz combos and amateur tooters take up residence at the tunnel’s entrance during the day, providing entertainment to nearby Conservatory of Flowers visitors. The tunnel actually seems to crave music pouring into and echoing through its abyss — it forms a protective acoustic cocoon around performers that amplifies mellifluous passages and somehow blurs out less felicitous ones. Spontaneous jam sessions are common, so don’t sit on the grass — pick up your brass.
Conservatory Dr. and John F. Kennedy Dr., Golden Gate Park, SF

BEST MOUSETRAP FOR MINOTAURS

Little-known and charmingly miniscule, the **Eagle Point Labyrinth** is a jumble of twisty turns perched on the lip of a cliff near an offshoot of Lands End Trail. To reach it, you must set out with a compass in hand, hope in your heart, and fingers crossed. The labyrinth, one of three outdoor mazes known to exist in San Francisco, is a mysterious wonder that has so far avoided being marked on any map (although it can be glimpsed via a Google satellite image for those too faint to blindly wander in search of it). The superlative views it affords of the Golden Gate certainly justify hiking, sometimes panicked, through yards of unpruned foliage. The stone-heaped maze is handmade, and while we speculate about its mysterious origins — a mousetrap for Minotaurs, perhaps? — we

can’t help but appreciate the karmic offerings of those who have reached the center before us, leaving a small pile of baubles. Mythic etiquette mandates you scoop up one of these and leave something of your own behind.
Lands End, Sutro Heights Park, SF.

BEST COMMUNITY STRETCH

Yearning to try yoga but needing to stretch your dollar? Every Monday through Thursday from 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., **YogaKula** packs its San Francisco location with eager newcomers for its affordable community class, available on a sliding scale (\$8 to \$16). Especially lively are the Monday and Wednesday classes with quirky and entertaining instructor Skeeter Barker, who offers genuine, palatable optimism and inspiration along with some much-needed recentering. Barker is an inspirational teacher who, as her Web profile says, “welcomes you to your mat, however you find yourself there.” Along with the community classes, YogaKula offers Anusara, a therapeutic style of yoga, in addition to a variety of other wellness practices. Its two locations — one at 16th Street and Mission, and one in North Berkeley — offer courses in yoga training, yoga philosophy, specialized workshops, Pilates, massage, and one-on-one yoga instruction.
3030A 16th St., SF. (415) 934-0000;
1700 Shattuck, Berk. (510) 486-0264,
www.yogakula.com

BEST PLACE TO HIDE A JET

To be precise, the best place to hide a jet is behind Door 14 on the **Alameda Naval Air Station**. While many of the buildings on the former military base have been converted to civilian uses, such as sports clubs and distilleries, some continue to serve military functions, like storing the jet that used to be on display at the base’s portside entrance (until high winds blew it off its pedestal two winters ago). The naval station is also the perfect place to hide domesticated bunnies. A herd of them live in and around a tumbledown shed opposite the Port of Oakland. Then there are the jackrabbits, which flash across the base’s open spaces at night, hind legs glinting in the moonlight. It’s easy to miss the flock of black-crowned night herons, which pose one-legged every winter on the lawns of “The Great Whites”-houses where the naval officers once lived. But who could

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Ann, Outer Richmond

BEST OF THE BAY 2009

forget the hawk that roosts atop the Hangar One distillery and periodically swoops to grab a tasty, unsuspecting victim off the otherwise empty runways where *The Matrix Reloaded* was shot?
1190 W. Tower, Alameda

BEST PUTT-PUTT ON THE 'CIDE

Since 1998, **Cyclecide** has been enchanting — and sometimes scaring — audiences with its punk rock-inspired, pedal-powered mayhem. But after 11 years of taking its bicycle-themed carnival rides, rodeo games, and live band to places like Coachella, Tour de Fat, and Multnomah County Bike Fair, the bicycle club is putting down roots, or rather, fake grass. This year the crew famous for tall bikes, bicycle jousting, and denim jackets with a cackling clown on the back is building Funland, an 18-hole mini golf course in the Bayview. Though sure to be fun for the whole family, rest assured that Funland will retain all of Cyclecide's boundary-pushing humor and lo-fi sensibility. Yes, there will be a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge built by master welder Jay Broemmell, but you can also putt through Closeupofmyass, a landscape of rubber tubes springing from brown Astroturf. What else would you expect from a crew whose interests are "bikes, beer, and building stuff"?
www.cyclecide.com

BEST NO FRILLS FIRST AID

It's nice for big companies to notice that women buy things other than cleaning supplies and facial cream. But do they have to make everything targeted toward the female demographic so freakin' floral and pink and cloyingly girly? **Adventure Medical Kits** — the Oakland-based company famous in sports circles for outfitting everyone from backcountry skiers to weekend car-campers with durable, complete first-aid packages — says a resounding no. Its women's edition outdoor medical kit comes jam-packed with all the fixings adventurous boys get — wound care materials, mini tweezers, insect-bite salve, a variety of medications, and a first-aid booklet — plus a couple things only ladies need, like tampons, leak-safe tampon bags, menstrual relief meds, and compact expand-in-water disposable towels. And it's all packaged in a sporty blue nylon bag that weighs less than a pound. No lipstick? No diet pills? No

frilly, lacy case made to look like a purse or a bra or a tiny dog? We're buying it.
www.adventuremedicalkits.com

BEST PLACE TO GET ROLLIN'

When one thinks of skate shops these days, one's thoughts travel naturally to wicked Bloodwizard decks, Heartless Creeper wheels, and Venture trucks — everything you'd need to trick out your board before you cruise to Potrero de Sol. All those goodies are available at **Cruz Skate Shop**, as well as Lowcard tees, recycled skateboard earrings, Protec helmets, and much more. But boarding is boring. You've done it since you were 13. Isn't it time to ditch that deck and take up a real sport like, say, roller skating? Hell, yes. And Cruz has everything you need to get started down that sparkly, disco-bumpy Yellow Brick Road to eight-wheelin' Oz. From the fiercest derby-ready model to mudflap girl bootie shorts, this store will kit you up in the best way for your Sunday afternoon Golden Gate Park debut. We're partial to the Sure-Grip Rock Flame set of wheels with, you guessed it, pink flames streaming up the toes. But an enticing array of more professional-looking speed skates is available, as is a knowl-

edgeable staff to get you rollin'.
3165 Mission, SF. (415) 285-8833,
www.cruzskateshop.com

BEST OF THE BAY ON THE BAY

If you're looking to get on the water without getting wet, **Ruby Sailing** is an affordable option for you and your friends to get a taste of adventure. The Ruby sailboat has been taking guests around the bay for 25 years. For just \$40 per person, owner and operator Captain Josh Pryor will lead you on a two and a half hour tour of the bay, passing Alcatraz and looping around Sausalito. Snacks are provided, and the skipper sells wine and beer by the glass for cheap. The Ruby is also available for fishing expeditions, including poles, bait, and tackle; for private parties up to 30 guests; for weddings; and even for funerals at sea. And since the boat boards at the Ramp restaurant on the Dogpatch waterfront, you're covered for pre- and post-splash food and drink, if you have the stomach. No prior sailing experience is required, but, in the words of the skipper, "no two trips are the same," so be ready to hang on.
855 Terry Francois, SF. (415) 272-0631, www.rubysailing.com **SFBG**

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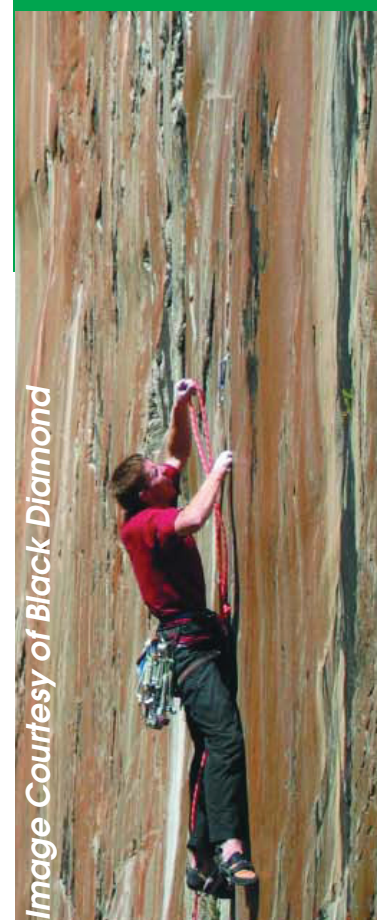
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7.29.09

Between 1975 and today, commercial property contributions to the tax roll have decreased from 47 percent to 30 percent.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IT'S MADDENINGLY SIMPLE--IF YOU WANT TO SAVE MONEY AND COVER EVERYONE, TAKE THE PROFIT MOTIVE OUT OF THE **INSURANCE** SYSTEM. MY 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER NEEDS A NEW LIVER OR SHE'LL **DIE!**

SIR--IF WE APPROVE A NEW LIVER FOR EVERY TEENAGER WHO GETS A **SNIFFLE**, HOW WILL WE AFFORD OUR CEO'S \$13 MILLION **SALARY?**

BUH-BYE NOW.

(BASED ON TRUE, TRAGIC STORY--GIRL DIED.)

AS OBAMA HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED IN HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE:

"THE TRUTH IS THAT UNLESS YOU HAVE WHAT'S CALLED THE SINGLE PAYER SYSTEM IN WHICH EVERYBODY'S AUTOMATICALLY COVERED, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO REACH EVERY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL..."



SO OF COURSE SINGLE PAYER'S NOT EVEN ON THE TABLE...THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS A "PUBLIC OPTION"...WHICH, AS IT TURNS OUT, MAY NOT COVER ABORTION...

I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT MY TAX DOLLARS TO BE USED FOR SOMETHING I **OPPOSE!**

GOSH, WHAT A GOOD POINT! NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE **IRAQ WAR**, **GUANTANAMO**, AND THE **GOLDMAN SACHS BAILOUTS!**



THIS HASN'T STOPPED CONSERVATIVES FROM CAMPAIGNING **AGAINST** A SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM...WHICH THE IMAGINARY OBAMA WHO LIVES IN THEIR **HEADS** HAS APPARENTLY PROPOSED...

HE WANTS TO TURN THIS COUNTRY INTO A TOTALITARIAN NIGHTMARE--JUST LIKE **CANADA!**

YOUR GRANDPARENTS WILL BE EUTHANIZED--EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT **SICK!**

THE STARS ON OUR FLAG WILL BE REPLACED--WITH **MAPLE LEAVES!**



THE TRULY PUZZLING THING IS--WHO **ARE** THESE PEOPLE, WHO ARE SO ENAMORED OF OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AS IT PRESENTLY EXISTS?

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IT'S ALL ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR HEAD EXPLODE--BUT YOU'D BETTER CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY **FIRST...**

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ON THE BRIGHT SIDE--AT LEAST YOU'RE FREE FROM THE **TYRANNY** OF **GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE!**



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What went wrong

EDITORIAL David Dayen, a political blogger at Calitics, had the best line on the California budget crisis.

"Whoever cares the least about the outcome wins," he wrote July 20. "If you don't care whether children get health care, whether the elderly, blind and disabled die in their homes, whether prisoners rot in modified Public Storage units, whether students get educated ... you have a very good chance of getting a budget that reflects that."

In the end, the Republicans largely carried the day because they had all the power: they could block any budget deal, they refused to raise any taxes, and they don't really care if the state goes bankrupt. In fact, Gov. Schwarzenegger was happy to draw the crisis out as long as necessary — it helped his poll rating.

San Francisco should have had a very different situation and a very different outcome. The progressives control the Board of Supervisors and the mayor is in a tight spot — he's running for governor and wants to show that he can manage San Francisco better than anyone in Sacramento is managing the state.

It's part of his campaign theme. A prolonged budget standoff was not in his interest.

And while the city budget is far, far better than the state budget, and the progressives managed to get a few concessions, the bottom line remains: this is a no-new-taxes budget, balanced largely with cuts and regressive new fees. In fact, for all the mayor's talk of working with the board on possible tax measures, it now appears likely that there will be no revenue proposals whatsoever on the November ballot.

And the mayor is going to make another deep round of cuts soon, when the figures on what San Francisco will lose in state funding (almost certainly more than \$150 million) become available.

It took last-minute efforts by Sup. Ross Mirkarimi, supported by Sup. David Campos, to win back funding for the Public Defender's Office and at least a shot at funding the public finance system for the next local elections.

The supervisors, frankly, should have pushed harder. The message to Newsom should have been: no bud-

get without new revenue. And as the board approaches the next fiscal year — projections already call for a \$300 million deficit — that absolutely has to be the bottom line. Critical services have been cut too deeply already.

The process needs to be better too. Allowing two supervisors — the budget committee chair and the board president — to negotiate a closed-door deal with the mayor without briefing their colleagues or letting the other stakeholders know what was going on was a big mistake that can't be repeated.

The *New York Times* ran a front-page story July 21 describing in bleak terms how California has abandoned its safety net and given up the ambitious dreams that for so long defined the state. "At no point in modern history," reporter Jennifer Steinhauer wrote, "has the state dealt with its fiscal issues by retreating so deeply in its services, beginning this spring with a round of multibillion-dollar budget cuts and continuing with, in total, some \$30 billion in cuts over two fiscal years to schools, colleges, health care, welfare, corrections, recreation and more."

That can't be the model for San Francisco to follow. **SFBG**

Let's close the Prop. 13 loophole

By Phil Ting

OPINION When it passed in 1978, Proposition 13 was advertised as a law to protect fixed-income seniors from losing their homes. In reality, Prop. 13 was a guise to shrink the size of government and cut vital public services like education, health care, transportation, public safety, and recreation. Now, 30 years later, it is one of the principle reasons so many seniors, children, homeless, and other vulnerable California residents are losing their vital safety net.

Using scare tactics showing seniors on the street, supporters of Prop. 13 convinced homeowners that the measure was created for their protection. But homeowners received only 24 percent of the tax refunds after Prop. 13 was passed in 1978. Far from helping seniors and working families under economic pressure, Prop. 13 opened a giant loophole in our tax structure that transferred a significant tax burden away from major corporations and onto individuals.

This tremendous transfer of responsibility from commercial property owners to average families is clear from the data here in San Francisco. Thirty years ago in San Francisco, commercial property owners contributed 59 percent of property tax revenues, and residential property owners contributed 41 percent. Today, we see a virtual flip: commercial property owners contributed just 43 percent of property taxes in 2008, while residential property owners contributed 57 percent. A similar dynamic can be found in Los Angeles. According to the Los Angeles County Assessor, in the period between 1975 and today, commercial property contributions to the tax roll have decreased from about 47 percent to just above 30 percent. In that same period, the burden of the tax roll coming from homeowners has increased by more than 15 percent.

As corporate property owners continue to be subsidized by the

tax loophole in Prop. 13, these lost tax dollars are handicapping our ability as a state to educate our children, keep our streets safe, protect the most vulnerable, and invest in important infrastructure projects.

At one point, California was considered America's model economy. We had the best public education system in the country. Our booming economy kept unemployment low and opened the door to opportunity for millions of families. We invested in our people and provided protections for the most needy. The scenario today couldn't be any more different.

But tough times present the best opportunity for change. I am organizing a grassroots movement of Californians who are behind a "split roll" system that would literally split the property tax rolls — assigning different tax levels to corporations and homeowners and leveling the property tax playing field by eliminating the property tax loophole for corporations. The state Board of equalization estimates that a split roll could generate up to \$7.5 billion in annual revenue.

Thousands have already been mobilized in this campaign. Our efforts have been featured in news outlets throughout the state, including the *Sacramento Bee*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Modesto Bee*, *KQED*, and the *Stockton Record*, among many others.

The road to reform is certainly going to be difficult. Over the past few years we have seen numerous attempts to reform Prop. 13, but they have all ultimately foundered due to the tremendous pressure that special interest groups can exert in Sacramento. That's why we need to organize a powerful grassroots campaign that can change minds one by one. **SFBG**

Phil Ting is San Francisco Assessor-Recorder. Learn more about his Close the Loophole campaign at www.closesthe loophole.com and facebook.com/closesthe loophole.



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City Hall's collaborators

Budget deal leaves progressives uneasy as more bad news looms

By Rebecca Bowe
rebeccab@sfbg.com

As the Board of Supervisors prepared to give final approval to the city budget July 21, Sup. John Avalos, who chairs the board's Budget and Finance Committee, told his colleagues the budget deal that he and President David Chiu negotiated with Mayor Gavin Newsom is "ushering in a new spirit of cooperation and collaboration at City Hall."

But at the end of the day, frantic last-minute revisions and indignant criticism from Avalos's progressive colleagues felt more like a family feud than the culmination of a team effort. Avalos and Chiu were able to restore \$44 million of Newsom's proposed cuts and got the mayor to promise to fund progressive priorities, such as public health and social services. Progressive supervisors, however, voiced deep skepticism about whether Newsom can be trusted.

To make matters more complicated, the messy conclusion of San Francisco's budget process coincided with the news that Sacramento officials had finally struck a state budget deal that proposes borrowing more than \$4 billion from local government coffers. So the city's spending plan, balanced with no small amount of pain, may already be thrown out of balance.

Compounding that problem, it's looking increasingly unlikely

that San Francisco voters will have an opportunity to weigh in on new tax measures that could help soften the blow of rapidly declining city revenues this fall, a situation that could quickly test this "new spirit of cooperation."

The tension at the July 21 meeting stemmed from Newsom's decision last year to close a massive cash shortage by making midyear cuts aimed at the heart of the progressive agenda — even after giving his word that he would not do so.

In some cases, the money was never allocated to begin with. According to a report prepared by the city's budget analyst, "The Board of Supervisors approved \$37,534,393 in monies that were restored in the FY 2008-09 budget, which include \$30,657,078 in General Fund monies and \$6,877,315 in non-General Fund monies. Yet \$15,627,397 in restored monies were either cut to meet mid-year reductions or never expended."

The mistrust generated by this episode and others prompted Sups. Chris Daly, Ross Mirkarimi, and David Campos to push for a series of last-minute changes that were designed to shield critical services from future cuts and give the board some power in its dealings with the Mayor's Office.

"We need a hedge. We need a contingency. If we put a number of items on reserve ... it gives

us leverage," Mirkarimi noted. A Campos motion to place \$45 million on reserve from the city's seven largest departments was approved by the progressives on a 6-5 vote. Mirkarimi also succeeded in winning approval for a motion to move \$900,000 from the trial courts to restore cuts to the Public Defender's and District Attorney's offices.

Other proposals failed to win over Avalos and Chiu, such as Mirkarimi's pitch to target reserve funding for mayoral projects, including the Community Justice Center, 311 call center, and Newsom's bloated communications staff. Daly's suggestion to put \$300 million on reserve also went nowhere.

"We are on the border of tearing apart a lot of goodwill," Avalos warned. "A \$300 million reserve gets to toxic levels. I would be remiss in not saying that the mayor did give us his word. I believe that there was a new Board of Supervisors elected and ... a new spirit of negotiation and collaboration in City Hall."

But Daly, making scathing references to "Gavin Christopher Newsom" as he fumed about budget cuts, clearly wasn't buying it. Also on the afternoon's agenda was his proposal to place a charter amendment on the ballot that would force the mayor to fund board-approved programs in the budget.

"Without it, we only have blunt instruments at our disposal," Daly said. "A blunt instrument is to take a significant fund, put it on reserve and have a hostage to make sure the administration doesn't use this most significant loophole. This is crafted to allow a majority of the Board of Supervisors to place a special marker on an appropriation that the board feels strongly about."

But Daly's idea went down in flames after Chiu and Avalos voted no along with Sups. Michela Alioto-Pier, Bevan Dufty, Sophie Maxwell, Sean Elsbernd and Carmen Chu. Afterward, Daly left the chambers and later returned to circulate a letter addressed to Chiu reading, "I am no longer interested in serving as Chair of the Rules Committee or Vice Chair of the City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee."

Daly wasn't the only one not feeling this new spirit of collaboration. All the last-minute changes clearly exasperated Elsbernd, who paced his corner of the room for much of the meeting, rubbing his forehead, and looking irritated. Eventually, Elsbernd and Chu were the only two votes against the final budget.

The prospect of new revenue measures also dimmed at the meeting. A proposal to place a measure on the November ballot calling for

a 0.5 percent sales tax hike fell short of the eight votes it needed (Alioto-Pier, Chu, Dufty, and Elsbernd voted no). And it's still too early to say whether a move to place a vehicle tax on the ballot can move forward because it's contingent on state legislation.

The state's funding raid could also hit the city hard. Leo Levenson, budget and analysis director with the San Francisco Office of the Controller, told the *Guardian* the city stands to lose \$71 million in General Fund dollars and \$32 million in other funds, although those numbers were still in flux at press time.

"The state must repay these funds within three years with interest," Levenson explained. "It is likely that San Francisco could be able to borrow money to mitigate the short-term financial impacts of this proposal, since the state is legally obligated to repay the funds within three years."

If the state goes after the gas tax, it could impact the city's General Fund by an additional \$18 million, Levenson noted, "so the city would need to backfill this reduction to sustain basic street cleaning operations."

So budget season isn't over yet. **SFBG**

Gabrielle Poccia contributed to this report.

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The city's spending plan, balanced with no small amount of pain, may already be thrown out of balance.

ALERTS

By Paula Connelly
alerts@sfbg.com

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Anarchist newspapers
Audrey Goodfriend from 1940s-era anarchist newspaper *The Why* joins anarchist newspaper veteran Barry Pateman at this Alexander Berkman Social Club meeting to discuss the past, present, and future of anarchist newspapers. Featuring snacks, raffles, and comradely good cheer.
7 p.m., \$5
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alexanderberkmansocialclub.blogspot.com

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BY LLOYD DANGLE

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International Forgiveness Day
Celebrate the possibilities of social change through forgiveness by hearing powerful stories of people who have learned to forgive under difficult circumstances. Featured speakers

include Christopher Rodriguez, the Oakland boy who was paralyzed by a robber's stray bullet while taking a piano lesson last year; U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.); a civil rights activist who was severely beaten by the Klu Klux Klan in 1961; and more.
7 p.m., free
Angelico Hall
Dominican University
50 Acacia, San Rafael
www.forgivenessday.org

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Against the prison-industrial complex
Join artists and activists at this art exhibit and discussion on cul-

tural and media work to abolish the prison-industrial complex and create a world free of prisons.
7 p.m., \$5-\$10 donation
East Side Arts Alliance
2277 International, Oakl.
(510) 533-6629 SFBG

Mail items for Alerts to the Guardian Building, 135 Mississippi St., SF, CA 94107; fax to (415) 255-8762; or e-mail alerts@sfbg.com. Please include a contact telephone number. Items must be received at least one week prior to the publication date.

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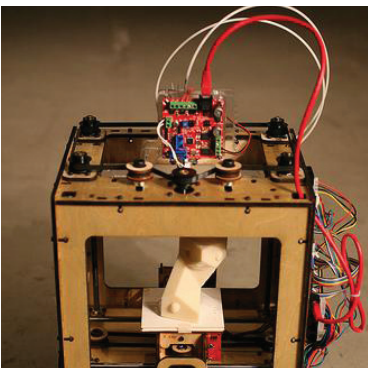
POLITICS
More on the Mitchell murder, elephant abuse, destroying the California Dream



NOISE
Indigo Girls live, summer jams, more live shows and wild parties



PIXEL VISION
Mocha chai at the Grove, Street Threads, food and fashion news



SEX SF
Fantasia on the Makerbot Cupcake, Babes and Billionaires meltdown, sex events

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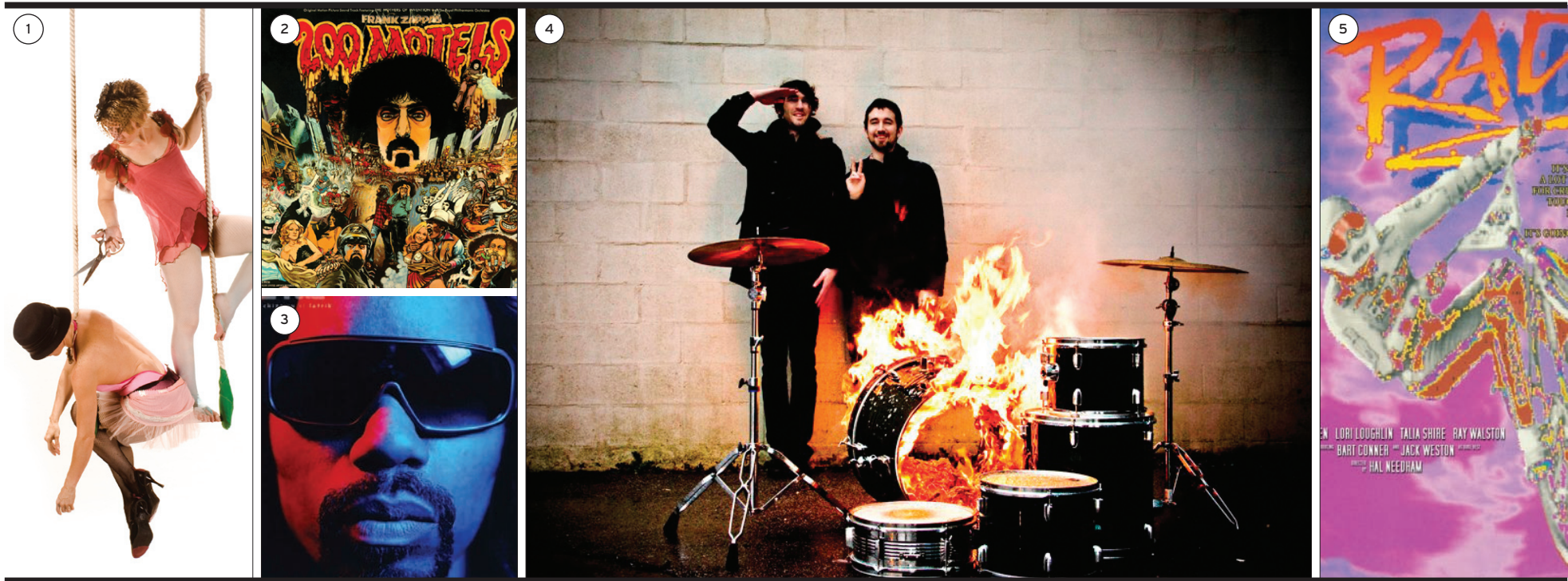
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GUARDIAN

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN PICKS



JULY 29-AUGUST 4

WEDNESDAY JULY 29

FILM

SFBC Bike-In Movie Night: *Rad*
There were two cheesy teen-drama flicks created to cash in on the 1980s BMX craze: 1983's *BMX Bandits*, a Aussie caper starring a very young, frizzy-haired Nicole Kidman (back when she could still make facial expressions) and 1986's *Rad*, about a wheelie-busting prodigy who gets his chance to shine when a pro race comes to town. It's a tough call, but clearly *Rad* wins this moto. For one thing, its idea of the scariest track ever built (literally, "Helltrack") factors in a mega-sized Kix cereal bowl (and spoon). It also features a slow-dance scene ... *on BMX bikes*. Thanks to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, you can recreate that tender moment as it happens when they screen *Rad* as part of their bike-in movie series. Don't try it on a fxiel! (**Cheryl Eddy**)

8 p.m., free
Good Hotel
112 Seventh St., SF
(415) 431-BIKE
www.sfbike.org/chain

THURSDAY JULY 30

MUSIC/STAGE

Paved Paradise Redux: The Art of Joni Mitchell
Rare opportunity alert: catch the return of famed New York visual and performance artist John Kelly as Joni Mitchell, when the two-time Obie Award winner brings his raved-about performance piece (it's raved about by Joni too) to San Francisco. Kelly, a multidisciplinary artist who years ago spent time studying tightrope with Pickle Family Circus and performing at Josie's, is on terra firma in SF. But make no mistake: this is a serious musical tribute, albeit laced with humor, charm, and an understated sense of the absurd. And Kelly's homage is *intense* — sung in the original keys, using Mitchell's trademark open tunings on the guitar and dulcimer, and gliding visually through the phases of the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter's career. It's no ersatz, off-the-rack drag act, but every bit a work of soulful artistry in its own right. (**Robert Avila**)

9 p.m. (through Sun/2), \$27.50–\$30
The Rrazz Room at Hotel Nikko
222 Mason, SF
(415) 394-1189
www.therazzroom.com

EVENT

Feed: the Fun-draiser
Make dreams come true and do your part to make *Feed* — a film that's a "savory, sensual, slasher love story" — come to life on the big screen. The LGBT feature is the story of Ronnie, a celebrity chef who serves up delicious meals by day and chews on bloody human remains by night. As Chef Ronnie's San Francisco restaurant grows in popularity, so does her appetite for human flesh. Sounds cool, right? Now you can help bring *Feed* to the table by going to its fundraiser, an event that features DJs, burlesque performers, a silent art auction and a full bar. All the dough that's raised goes directly into financing the flick. (**Victoria Nguyen**)

7 p.m.-midnight, \$10–\$25
Climate Theater
285 Ninth St., SF
(415) 704-3260
www.theclimatetheater.com

EVENT

Martini Social with Peter Maravelis
Peter Maravelis is a dangerous man. By day, he is the events coordinator at City Lights Bookstore, putting it in Mr. Man's face with incendiary and inspirational programs. By night he is, among his many guises, a raconteur and editor. It is this Maravelis who hosts a swank martini social at the Green Arcade, spinning sultry

discs and mixing it up. The ever dapper and intriguing editor will read from the anthology *San Francisco Noir 2* (Akashic, 300 pages, \$15.95) — as he serves street-wise grit and Barbary Coast barbarism, you can wash it down with one of the best martinis around. (**D. Scot Miller**)

7 p.m., free
The Green Arcade
1680 Gough, SF
(415) 431-6800
www.thegreenarcade.com

FRIDAY JULY 31

MUSIC

Ganglians
These wide-eyed weirdos from Sacramento are the new heirs to the throne of maniacal sound. But even if you placed crowns on their scruffy heads and scepters in their hands, they'd still play exactly what's in their souls: freewheeling ditties of sonic glee and pop sludge riddled with ennui. The trio just released two melodically tumultuous records simultaneously, attracting heaps of critical intrigue to their whacked-out aesthetic and moniker that evokes fluid-filled cysts. Crafting their melodic kingdom out of keyboard quirks, falsetto wails and sky-gazing guitar work, the skinny maestros of Ganglians march fearlessly to their own lo-fi, psych folk beat. (**L.C. Mason**)

With the Fresh & Onlys and the Hospitals
8 p.m., \$7
Amnesia
853 Valencia, SF
(415) 970-0012
www.amnesiathebar.com

MUSIC

Dam-Funk
The self-proclaimed (and rightfully so) ambassador of boogie, Dam-Funk is on a spiritual quest to modernize the funk. Los Angeles indie label Stones Throw Records just launched a digital release of the first part (*LAtrik*) of Dam's five-volume debut effort, *Toeachizown*, set to drop in the fall. The EP is exquisitely electrifying. Gathering inspiration from Prince's synth infused melodies, the cosmic pathos of Cybotron, and a whole library of ruddy wax documentation of the 1980s purest moments, Dam-Funk crafts a magnetic brand of warm-bodied boogie funk for a new generation. This is music that feels good in the simplest way, comforting the soul without any pretension. (**Michael Krimper**)

With Pase Rock, Trackademicks, DJ DRM, and more
10 p.m., \$10
111 Minna Gallery
111 Minna St, SF
(415) 974-1719
www.111minnagallery.com

FILM

"Rolling Thunder: The Films of Quentin Tarantino"
With the release of *Inglourious Basterds* right around the corner, there's no better time to don a blood-stained white shirt, grab your glowing briefcase, and revisit the works of Quentin Tarantino — probably the most important American filmmaker of the 1990s. Admittedly, his more recent output hasn't made quite the splash of 1992's *Reservoir Dogs*, which spawned countless knockoffs, or 1994's *Pulp Fiction*, which was robbed of a Best Picture Oscar by *Forrest Gump*. (Seriously, I'm still pissed about that.) But though he may fear the editing room (and love his acting) a bit too much, there's no denying QT still has unique style and writing chops — both rare in cookie-cutter Hollywood. The Castro primes fans for *Basterds* by screening the erstwhile Mr. Brown's features to date, which also include his *Grindhouse* segment, *Death Proof* (2007), both *Kill Bill* volumes (2003, 2004), and the underrated *Jackie Brown* (1997). (**Eddy**)

Through Sun/2, times vary, \$5–\$10
Castro Theatre
429 Castro, SF
(415) 621-6120
www.castrotheatre.com

CONTINUES ON PAGE 97 »

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WWW.THEFOXOAKLAND.COM

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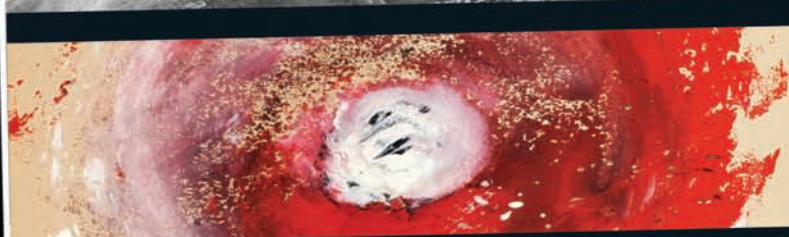
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17th
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SEPTEMBER 16th

AT 8:00 PM



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PICKS CONT. >>

PERFORMANCE/STAGE

Bald

Meet Laura. Since junior high, Laura has lived with alopecia universalis, a condition that has left her hairless. For years she tried to hide her baldness from the world with wigs and false eyelashes because her condition made her feel "ashamed, ugly and strange." Now meet Laura's sister Julie. Julie struggled with body issues for many years, and the wounds she inflicted on herself can still be seen on her arms and thighs. Laura's semi-autobiographical show *Bald* combines traditional and physical theater, dance, and aerial acts to share her and her sister's journey for self-acceptance. A portion of ticket sales will be donated to Locks of Love. **(Nguyen)**

8 p.m. (through Sat/1), \$15–\$30
Dance Mission Theater
3316 24th St., SF
(415) 826-4441
www.dancemission.com

ART/EVENT/MUSIC

Marker Dance Party

You can dance for inspiration. And you can draw for inspiration. C'mon, Rock Paper Scissors collective is waiting for you to get wild with your feet and your hands at the Marker Dance Party. Step into a gallery space covered in paper to draw on. DJ Razvan of Black Market Techno brings the beats, and you can either bring your own markers or use the washable ones on hand. **(Johnny Ray Huston)**

8 p.m.-midnight, \$1-\$15
Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph, Oakl.
(510) 238-9171
www.rpscollective.com

STAGE

Aaron Trotter and the Incident at Bikini Beach

A nerdy bespectacled kid travels to a distant magical place where he must discover his destiny and uncover the fate of his long-lost parents. The boy's name is Trotter — Aaron Trotter. In his new play, KFOG's Peter Finch spoofs the beloved Harry Potter novels by giving them a totally radical California makeover. Trotter's adventure begins when the 17-year-old leaves his aunt and uncle's abusive home to run away with a beatnik to Los Angeles. From there, Trotter must learn to hang loose with the surfers, score a date with a dreamy Asian chick, and outwit the Evil Von Rottenhauser — all to a soundtrack of peppy '60s beach music. Party on, brah! **(Nguyen)**

8 p.m. (continues through Aug. 15), \$18–\$25
EXIT Theatre
156 Eddy, SF
(415) 673-3847
www.theexit.org

SATURDAY AUGUST 1

FILM

200 Motels

Frank Zappa's music plays like the fever dream of America's collective musical unconscious, an irreverent collage of *Wasteland*-like scope, only with more dick jokes and saxophones. It should come as no surprise then that Zappa's obscure 1971 directorial effort, *200 Motels*, is fueled by the same maniacal drive to weird out its audience at all times. The mostly inconsequential plot follows the Mothers of Invention as they make their way across a hallucinatory, non-sensical — or is it? — vision of middle

America. Beatles fans be warned: you may never look at Ringo the same way again. **(Tony Papanikolas)**

9 p.m., \$5.50–\$9.50
Pacific Film Archive Theater
2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
(510) 643-2197
www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

SUNDAY AUGUST 2

MUSIC

Hirax

Along with D.R.I., Cryptic Slaughter, and a handful of like-minded bands, Hirax helped pioneer the short-lived thrash-hardcore hybrid genre appropriately known as crossover. The band has gone through countless lineup changes since its 1984 inception, but each incarnation has retained an unbending devotion to the cause of rapid fire heavy metal. As always, Hirax's secret weapon is Halfordian vocalist and gauntlet-clad human cartoon Katon W. De Pena. The show has the added bonus of starting at 5 p.m., so you can thrash your brains out while still being well rested for Monday morning, the metalhead's natural enemy. **(Papanikolas)**

With Wehrmacht, Voëtsek, Scarecrow, Insanity
5 p.m. (doors at 4 p.m.), \$15–\$18 door, all ages
DNA Lounge
375 11th St., SF
(415) 626-1409
www.dnalounge.com

MUSIC

Japandroids

Don't hate them because they're *Pitchfork* darlings. Japandroids have

CONTINUES ON PAGE 99 >>

PUSH

YBCA SUMMER FESTIVAL

<W>T

THRU SEP 11

OPENING NIGHT PARTY
WALLWORKS »» FRI, JUL 31, 8–11 PM
\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door
FREE for YBCA Members & a guest

Celebrate the opening of *Wallworks* with entertainment by Mexico City's international sensation, **MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF SOUND**, DJ *Lengua* and Chris Brown's *Rogue Wave*. And don't forget Campari cocktails and the fabulous YBCA crowd!

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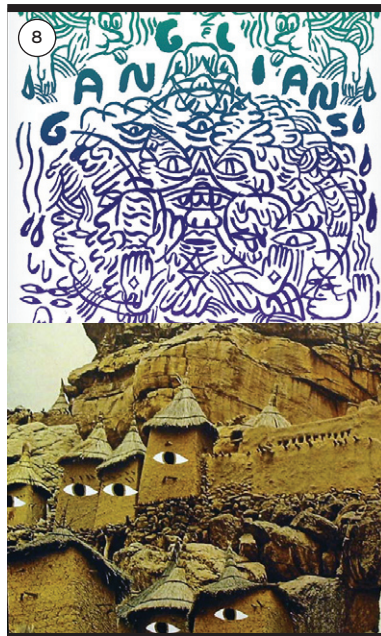
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NEW BELGIUM BREWING

Back when Nicole Kidman could still make facial expressions.



(1) Performance still from *Bald* (see Fri/31); (2) *200 Motels* soundtrack (see Sat/1); (3) Dam-Funk in the shade (see Fri/31); pyro Japandroids (see Sun/2); (5) poster for *Rad* (see Wed/29); (6) the titular character of *Aaron Trotter* (see Fri/31); (7) John Kelly as Joni Mitchell (see Thurs/30); (8) Ganglians album covers (see Fri/31)

BALD PHOTO BY JOE PICARD; DAM-FUNK PHOTO BY MATHEW SCOTT; JAPANDROIDS PHOTO BY LEIGH REIGHTON

PICKS CONT. >>

energy and personality for days. On first listen, they seem like a duo made up of Superchunk's Mac McCaughan and Janes' Addiction-era Perry Farrell — in other words, a wail-a-thon so new '90s it's almost discomfiting. But there's wit mixed in with their sonic whiplash. "Young Hearts Spark Fire" is like a hyper and anxiety-ridden older cousin of Wavves' 21st-century California girl musings, right down to the couplet "I don't wanna worry about dying / I just wanna worry about those sunshine girls." (**Huston**)

With Weekend
Hemlock Tavern
1131 Polk, SF
(415) 923-0923
www.hemlocktavern.com

MUSIC

Sonic Youth

In the continuing age of feedback, some artistry takes place before the band even hits the stage. Case in point: Thurston Moore and the meticulous craft that surely goes into coaxing his amp to produce those gorgeous explosions of nuanced fuzz that shape Sonic Youth's sound. Recently the band has been featured heavily in *The New Yorker*, suggesting that either: a) the first generation of indie kids has outgrown your fanzine, or b) in five years, *The New Yorker* will be dangerously close to discovering Dinosaur Jr. Don't lend them your copy of *You're Living All Over Me* (1987, SST), unless you want to see J. Mascis and company headlining at Yoshi's! (**Papanikolas**)

With Awesome Color
8 p.m., \$35
Fox Theater
1807 Telegraph, Oakl.

(510) 452-0438
www.thefoxoakland.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 4

MUSIC

Powell St. John

Psych-rock buffs still group Powell St. John with the Austin scene that spawned Janis Joplin (the two were briefly in a band together) and Roky Erickson (St. John penned songs for the first two 13th Floor Elevators albums), but followed the zeitgeist to San Francisco in the mid-'60s. Once there, the harmonica troubadour helped forge the burgeoning psychedelic sound from his abiding interest in traditional folk forms. His band Mother Earth has long since been consigned to the Summer of Love dustbin, but St. John is ripe for rediscovery with a new album on the vanguard roots label Tompkins Square. (**Max Goldberg**)

8 p.m., \$18.50
Freight and Salvage
1111 Addison, Berk.
(510) 548-7603
www.thefreight.org

The *Guardian* listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian Building, 135 Mississippi St., SF, CA 94107; fax to (415) 487-2506; or e-mail (paste press release into e-mail body — no text attachments, please) to listings@sfbg.com. We cannot guarantee the return of photos, but enclosing an SASE helps. Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.

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THU 7/30 SONG BIRD FEST COMMUNITY ACTIVIST SHOW
(LIVE ON THE PATIO) 6PM
DJ SURESH AND NAGABEATZ
(WORLD) 9PM NO \$ FRONT ROOM
TORNADO RIDER
(ROCK/AMERICANA/PUNK) 9PM \$5

FRI 7/31 FREE OYSTERS ON THE HALF SHELL 5:30
DJ'S CARMEN & MIRANDAS FRUIT STAND
6PM-2AM (WORLD, FUNK, R&B, POP)
RED HOTS BURLESQUE 7:30
THE HARD TO GET, FINEST DEAREST, POOR SWEET CREATURES
(ROCK/INDIE) \$5

SAT 8/1 CHICHARONNES NACO AFTERNOON
PARTY (CUAV BENEFIT) 3-8PM BBQ AND DJS
THE FLAKES,
TH' LOSIN STREAKS,
I LOVE MY LABEL
(GARAGE ROCK) 9PM \$7

SUN 8/2 **SALSA SUNDAYS**
RUMBACHE
3-8PM \$8 DANCE CLASS

MON 8/3 DAN MILLER, JUSTUS BENDS,
EASTERN SUNZ, D.A.V.O. (HIPHOP)
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WITH TIM LEE

WEDNESDAY 8/5 - SATURDAY 8/8
FROM CHLOE LATELY
AND COMEDY CENTRAL!
TODD GLASS
DANIEL KINNO, HASAN MINHAJ

TUESDAY 8/11 - THURSDAY 8/13
FROM THE COMEDIANS OF COMEDY!
MARIA BAMFORD
LARRY VAZEOS, CHRIS GARCIA

FRIDAY 8/14 - SATURDAY 8/15
FROM HBO AND HOWARD STERN!
ROBERT SCHIMMEL
ROBERT MAC, CHRIS GARCIA

WEDNESDAY 8/19 - SATURDAY 8/22
FROM Z-ROCK AND SPIKE TV
BIG JAY OAKERSON
NIKKI CLASER, JULIAN MCCULLOUGH

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BRIAN POSEHN
From "The Comedians of Comedy"
Featuring Charlyne Yi

AUGUST 20-22
DANIEL TOSH
From Comedy Central's "Tosh.0"
and "The Tonight Show"

AUGUST 27-30
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and "Mind of Mencia"

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SAT AUG 8
PIRATE NIGHT
Aaaaaaah! Naughty
pirate boys & girls!
UPSTAIRS ROOM:
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with DJs:
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and DJ EARWORM
Performances: ANNA CONDA
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THU JUL 30th REVIVAL SOUND SYSTEM \$23 ADV \$25 DOOR

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COLIN HAY
BHI BHIMAN **doors 8:30**
SAT AUG 1st \$31

Dezarie
Jah Yzer **doors 8:30**
TUE AUG 4th \$23 ADV \$25 DOOR

MICHAEL ROSE
doors 8:30
THU AUG 6th \$27

FRI 8.7/ DOORS 8:30/ FREE!
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LEATHER FEATHER • TORNADO RIDER
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THE ACCUSED
WED 8.12/ DOORS 7:30/ \$25
BETTER THAN EZRA
16 FRAMES
THU 8.13/ DOORS 8:30/ \$28
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CINEMATEQUE AVEC
BRITTANY SHANE
FRIDAY, 7/31 • 9 PM \$8
COUP DE SKA
The Titan Ups
+special guest
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JAVIER DUNN
Allen Stone
Emily Rath
WEDNESDAY, 8/5 • 9 PM \$10
MATT SHEEHY
Classical Rev
+special guests
FRIDAY, 8/7 • 9 PM \$20 TIX AT TICKETWEB
BLACK FRANCIS (solo) of the Pixies
+special guests
SATURDAY, 8/8 • GIANTS GAME BBQ 1 PM
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Nosaj Thing

PREVIEW A delicate secret lies behind electronic producer Jason Chung's musical alias, Nosaj Thing. I'll break it down quickly. Invert Jason from front to back so that the sound rolls off the tongue in an ephemeral two-step hop from palate to teeth. Supplement that spacious beginning with a full-bodied surname, and the paradoxical nature of "Nosaj Thing" is complete. Corporeal sensuality whisked away in nebulous lightness. Might there be such an impossible thing? I point the nonbelievers in the direction of Chung's full length debut, *Drift* (Alpha Pup), a brilliant soundscape still building in momentum since last month's release.

A lesson in the elegant aerodynamics of heavy objects, *Drift* reflects the harmonious relations of galactic bodies floating in space and the unbelievable lightness of human-made aircrafts soaring in the air.

The 24-year-old Chung's committed but decidedly loose affiliation with the versatile Low End Theory collective has fueled his lift-off into ethereal robotics. But Chung has picked up a free range ethic of self-determination from the L.A. underground more than any ideological doctrine. On *Drift*, Nosaj Thing's disembodied mind sets off on an odyssey through eerie, oil-spill melodies and cavernous rhythmic voids. Darkly harmonic sounds are submerged under the android lights of an indigo night sky. The result is a soundtrack for an ancient sci-fi film about a genetically engineered Moses drifting along a river between Virgil's hell and a raver's ecstatic heaven. Oh, I can keep going. (Michael Krimper)

BLASTHAUS PRESENTS NOSAJ THING'S DRIFT ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

Fri./31, 9 p.m., \$12.50. Mighty, 119 Utah Street, SF. (415) 762-0151, www.mighty119.com

Music listings are compiled by Paula Connelly and Cheryl Eddy. Since club life is unpredictable, it's a good idea to call ahead to confirm bookings and hours. Prices are listed when provided to us. Submit items for the listings at listings@sfbg.com. For further information on how to submit items for the listings, see Picks.

WEDNESDAY 29

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Boyz IV Men Elbo Room. 9pm.
Chin Chin, Nino Moschella, Arman Nalbandian Rickshaw Stop. 8pm, \$10.
A Decent Animal, Room3 Café du Nord. 8pm, \$10.
Henry Clay People, Chris Townshend, Lucy Walsh Hotel Utah. 8:30pm, \$7.
Kottonmouth Kings, Swollen Members, Big B, Dirtball, Short Dawg Tha Native Regency Ballroom. 7:30pm, \$28.
Magnolia Electric Company, Donkeys, Val Esway and El Mirage Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$12.
Mark Matos and Os Beaches, Frank Fairfield, Mira Cook, Nate Grace Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$7.
Kenny Neal Biscuits and Blues. 8pm, \$16.
Top Critters, Gibbs, Belligator Annie's Social Club. 8pm, \$7.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Fil Lorenz Orchestra Savanna Jazz. 9:30pm, \$5.
Leo Kottke Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$28.
Ben Marcato and the Mondo Combo Top of the Mark. 7:30pm, \$10.
"Marcus Shelby Jazz Jam" Revolution Café, 3248 22nd St, SF; (415) 642-0474. 8:30pm, free.
Tin Cup Serenade Le Colonial, 20 Cosmo Place, SF; (415) 931-3600. 7pm, free.

MUSIC



FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Cabaret Nouveau Bollyhood Café. 9pm, \$8-12. Part of the Songbird Festival.
Rebecca Cross and Ken Flagg Space Gallery, 1141 Polk, SF; (415) 399-0393. 9pm, free.
Gaucha Amnesia. 8pm, free.
Robyn Harris Plough and Stars. 9pm, free.
Mitch Marcus Sessions Amnesia. 10pm, free.
Wailing Souls Slim's. 9pm, \$23.

DANCE CLUBS

Booty Call Q-Bar, 456 Castro; www.bootycallwednesdays.com. 9pm. Juanita Moore hosts this dance party, featuring DJ Robot Hustle.
Etienne de Crécy Independent. 9pm, \$15.
Fame Bar on Church. 9pm. With rotating DJs.
Jam Wednesday Infusion Lounge. 10pm, free. DJ Slick Dee.
Qoöl 111 Minna Gallery. 5-10pm, \$5. Pan-techno lounge with DJs Spesh, Gil, Hyper D, and Jondi.
RedWine Social Dalva. 9pm-2am, free. DJ TophOne and guests spin outernational funk and get drunk.
Respect Wednesdays End Up. 10pm, \$5. Rotating DJs Lonestar Sound, Young Fyah, Sake One, Serg, and more spinning reggae, dancehall, roots, lovers rock, and mash ups.
Synchronize Il Pirata, 2007 16th St.; (415) 626-2626. 10pm, free. Psychedelic dance music with DJs Helios, Gatto Matto, Psy Lotus, Intergalactoid, and guests.

THURSDAY 30

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Black Cobra, Giant Squid, Grayceon, Cormorant Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$8.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 102 >>

THUR/30 ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

CONT>>

"Cinematheque Avec Brittany Shane" Hotel Utah. 8:30pm, \$2-10. Short films and music.
Dolorata, Audrey Howard and the Misterys, 2 Against 1 Annie's Social Club. 9pm, \$7.
Gomez, Blind Pilot Fillmore. 9pm, \$27.50.
Lord Loves a Working Man, Struts, Hi-Nobles Rickshaw Stop. 8pm, \$10.
Freddie McGregor, Laden and Chino, Revival Sound System Independent. 9pm, \$25.
N.E.R.D., Clipse Warfield. 9pm, \$39.50-52.50.
Trashcan Sinatras, Brookville, Music Lovers Café du Nord. 8pm, \$20.
"Tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughn with Alan Iglesias" Biscuits and Blues. 8pm, \$16.
TV Ghost, Photobooth, Outdoorsmen Hemlock

Tavern. 9pm, \$7.
Warlocks Bottom of the Hill. 8:30pm, \$12.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Eric Kurtzrock Trio Ana Mandara, Ghirardelli Square, 891 Beach, SF; (415) 771-6800. 7:30pm, free.
Michael Gold Socha Café, 3235 Mission, SF; (415) 643-6848. 8:30pm, free.
Kelly Park Trio Shanghai Jazz. 7pm, free.
Leo Kottke Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$28.
Marlina Teich Trio Brickhouse, 426 Brannan, SF; (415) 820-1595. 7-10pm, free.
Stompy Jones Top of the Mark. 7:30pm, \$10.

FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Bluegrass and Old Time Jam Atlas Café. 8pm, free.
Banish the Dogs Plough and Stars. 9pm, free.
Community Flight, Conspiracy of Venus El Rio.

9pm, \$8-12.
Raffi Garabedian Revolution Café, 3248 22nd St, SF; (415) 642-0474. 8:30pm, free.
Small Sur, Nate Grace Amnesia. 9pm, \$6.
True Margrit Dolores Park Café. 7:30pm, free.

DANCE CLUBS

Afrolicious Elbo Room. 9:30pm, \$5-6. DJs Pleasuremaker, Señor Oz, J Elrod, and B Lee spin Afrobeat, Tropicalia, electro, samba, and funk.
Caribbean Connection Little Baobab, 3388 19th St; 643-3558. 10pm, \$3. DJ Stevie B and guests spin reggae, soca, zouk, reggaeton, and more.
Drop the Pressure Underground SF. 6-10pm, free. Electro, house, and datafunk highlight this weekly happy hour.
Funky Rewind Skylark. 9pm, free. DJ Kung Fu Chris, MAKossa, and rotating guest DJs spin heavy funk breaks, early hip-hop, boogie, and classic Jamaican riddims.

Heat Icon Ultra Lounge. 10pm, free. Hip-hop, R&B, reggae, and soul.
Kick It Bar on Church. 9pm. Hip-hop with DJ Jorge Terez.
Koko Puffs Koko Cocktails, 1060 Geary; 885-4788. 10pm, free. Dubby roots reggae and Jamaican funk from rotating DJs.
Mestiza Bollywood Café, 3376 19th St., SF; (415) 970-0362. 10pm, free. Showcasing progressive Latin and global beats with DJ Juan Data.
Popscene 330 Rich. 10pm, \$10. Rotating DJs spinning indie, Britpop, electro, new wave, and post-punk.
Stonebridge, Kid Loose Harlot, 46 Minna, SF; (415) 515-4091. Spinning dance and soulful house.
Toppa Top Thursdays Club Six. 9pm, \$5. Jah Yzer, I-Vier, and Irie Dole spin the reggae jams for your maximum irie-ness.

FRIDAY 31

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Castanets, Warmer Milks, Lake Millions Hemlock Tavern. 9:30pm, \$8.
Classics of Love, Toys That Kill, Ready the Jet, For.The.Win. Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$10.
Cross Canadian Ragweed, Band of Heathens Independent. 9pm, \$15.
Death by Stereo, Alcatraz Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$10.
40 Love, Equipto, DJ Imperial, Whooligan, DJ Pause Elbo Room. 10pm, \$8.
Gomez, Blind Pilot Fillmore. 9pm, \$27.50.
Zakiya Hooker Biscuits and Blues. 8 and 10pm, \$20.
Lou Dog Trio, Little Bitches, Audiodub Slim's.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 104 >>

The Uptown OAKLAND

7/29 DOOR 9PM NO COVER! PIRATE CAT RADIO LOCALS ONLY LIVE SHOWCASE THE MITCHELL EXPERIMENT, PIERATS, THE TET HOLIDAY

7/30 DOOR 9PM NO COVER! THE DEBUT OF **DICTATORTOT** DJ'S BRIAN MOSS, RYAN & EMILY FREE SNACKS!

7/31 DOOR 9PM \$8 PERFORMER MAGAZINE PRESENTS: **THE MUMLERS** COLOSSAL YES, PAINTED CAKES

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8/6 DOOR 9PM \$10 www.ticketweb.com **ROXY EPOXY & THE REBOUNDS** THE ACTION DESIGN, GOODBYE GADGET DJ SQUID (PIRATE CAT RADIO)

8/7 DOOR 6PM/ SHOW 9PM NO COVER! EAST BAY EXPRESS "BEST OF BAY" OFFICIAL AFTER-PARTY! **BART DAVENPORT** SAM FLAX KEENER, RICKY LEE ROBINSON DJ THE DUKE OF WINDSOR

8/8 JAMES INTVELD • 8/15 DEAD SOULS

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5-9
2nd St Gallery
Happy hour free and open to the public

drink
Zappa Room
Drink for Charity
w/ Eric and Greg from 92.7
a fundraiser for team in training 7-10

FRIDAY the 31ST
5pm till 9pm
Happy Hour
Drink specials and Djs then later:
Amplify
Friday | July 31 | 10pm-2am | \$10 presale with Pace Rock and Dam Funk

SATURDAY the 1ST
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Grand Puba and Lord jamar LIVE
Mr. E Bluefizz Fran Boogie

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mtstmnt.com
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WED 7/29 **DJ SOMEBODY SOMEDAY AND A CAST OF DOZENS** 10PM

THU 7/30 **DJ MISS CHERRY T.** 10PM

FRI 7/31 **SOCKPUPPET SOUNDSYSTEM** 10PM

SAT 8/01 **THE KITCHEN** 10PM

SUN 8/02 **DJ CHOICE** 8PM

MON 8/03 **DOWNBEAT MONDAYS** 10PM

TUE 8/04 **ALCOHOLOCAUST W/ WHATSHISUCK. DJ DEAMAMITE AND SCURVY SAM** 9PM

WED 8/05 **DJS MOSES AND WILL** 10PM

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Mitch Marcus Sessions

THU 7/30 **St. St. (Portland)** Early - 7pm FREE
Sonny & the Sunsets (7" Release Party) 9pm, \$7
Small Sur (Baltimore)
Nate Grace (Austin)

FRI 7/31 **Rob Reich** (piano) & **Craig Ventresco** (guitar) EARLY - 7-9pm FREE
Ganglians, Fresh & Onlys
Grass Widow

SAT 8/1 **Brian Glaze** Record release - 'Green Living' [World Famous in SF]
The Splinters Record release - 'Splintered Bridges b/w Sorry' 7" (Double Negative) 9pm, \$8
The Perverts Record release - & Sir Robbie on the records SF

SUN 8/2 **Mecca Decompression** 10pm, \$7-10
Belly Dancing/urban gypsy night

MON 8/3 **Free Bluegrass Mondays** 8:30pm, FREE
w/ Belle Monroe & Her Brewglass Boys

TUE 8/4 **Rock Out Karaoke!** 9pm FREE
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Red Light Open Mic 7pm FREE
W/ Host Phillip T. Nails

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THU JULY 30 OPEN 1PM **DJ JOHNNY WARD**
Hip Hop, Dance 10pm

FRI JULY 31 OPEN 1PM **JOEL STREETER**
R&R Covers 10pm

SAT AUG 1 OPEN 12PM **SENICA**
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SUN AUG 2 OPEN 1PM **QUINN BROTHERS** 7pm
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MON AUG 3 OPEN 1PM **OLAN HEALY**
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July 30th



Dezarie
August 3rd



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AUGUST 6TH



GREGORY ISAACS
AUGUST 13TH



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SEPTEMBER 7



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AUGUST 19



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September 9th



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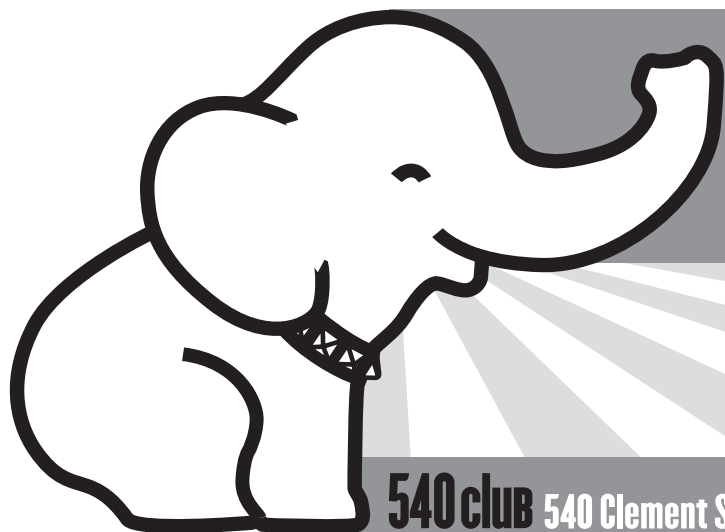

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9PM \$8
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CORMORANT
DJ ROB METAL

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DEATH BY STEREO
ALCATRAZ
TBA

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HUKAHOLIX
GUTWRENCH

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DJ VINYL ABUSER

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3PM FREE ALL AGES
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DEVIL'S OWN
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8/11 - BOOK OF BLACK EARTH, LANDMINE MARATHON
8/12 - LIONS, BLACK ROBOT, FLEXX BRONCO
8/14 & 8/15 - THRILLEST
8/19 - HORROR X, BOATS!!!, THE SPURTS, THE PRANKS
8/20 - BLOWFLY, BLAG DAHLIA, ROCK LEGEND, MAD MACKA
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THE WARLOCKS
THE MORNING AFTER GIRLS
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DOOR 8:30 \$10 age: ALL
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TOYS THAT KILL
READY THE JET
FOR THE WIN

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FRI/31
ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP
CONT>>

9pm, \$15.
Stan Ridgway and Band Great American Music Hall. 9pm, \$25.
Trashcan Sinatras, Brookville, Music Lovers Café du Nord. 9pm, \$20.

BAY AREA
Earth, Wind and Fire, Chicago Greek Theater, UC Berkeley, Berk; www.ticketmaster.com. 7:30pm, \$39.50-125.50.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Audium 9 1616 Bush, SF; (415) 771-1616. 8:30pm, \$15.
Black Market Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark.

MUSIC

9pm, \$10.
Eric Kurtzrock Trio Ana Mandara, Ghirardelli Square, 891 Beach, SF; 771-6800. 8pm, free.
Leo Kottke Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$32.
Lucid Lovers Plough and Stars. 9pm.
Times Four Shanghai Jazz. 7:30pm.

FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

» **Sonya Cotton, Honeybody Moonbee, Devotionals** Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, SF; www.sonyacotton.com. 7pm, \$5-10.
Carlito Del Sol and America Fillmore Center, Fillmore at O'Farrell, SF; (415) 921-1969. 6pm, free.
Orange Mighty Trio, Zack Kline Revolution Café, 3248 22nd St, SF; (415) 642-0474. 8:45pm, free.
"Queer Girl Music" Garage, 975 Howard, SF; (415) 885-4006. 8pm, \$10-20. With Camp Out, Jackie Buerger, and Mary Roach.

Grand Opening

coda.

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Dinner and Live Music Nightly

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st 10 PM

BIRTH OF COOL

presented by The Jazz Mafia All Stars
featuring Adam Theis, Marcus Shelby & more!

no charge

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd 9 PM

MANICATO

(latin/reggae/funk)

\$7

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4th 9 PM

JOE BAGALE

presented by Jazz Mafia
(R&B/funk)

\$7

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5th 9 PM

SCOTT AMENDOLA & WIL BLADES

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Rob Reich and Craig Ventresco Amnesia. 7pm, free.

DANCE CLUBS

Activate! Lookout, 3600 16th St; (415) 431-0306. 9pm, \$3. Face your demigods and demons at this Red Bull-fueled party.

Amplify 111 Minna. 10pm, \$10. With live performances by Pase Rock, Dam Funk, Trackademicks, and more and DJs DRM, J Billion, B Bravo, and Morsy, also featuring a photography showcase, and live screen printing.

Bar on Church 9pm. Rotating DJs Zax, Zhaldee, and Nuxx.

Big Payback 330 Rich. 9pm, \$5. Featuring DJ Fuzé, Pam the Funkstress, D-Sharp, Sake One, and Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist spinning hip hop, dance-hall, old school, R & B, funk, and electro.

Exhale, Fridays Project One Gallery, 251 Rhode Island; (415) 465-2129. 5pm, \$5. Happy hour with art, fine food, and music with Vin Sol, King Most, DJ Centipede, and Shane King.

Fat Stack Fridays Koko Cocktails, 1060 Geary, SF; (415) 885-4788. 10pm, free. With rotating DJs Romanowski, B-Love, Tomas, Toph One, and Vinnie Esparza.

Gay Asian Paradise Club Eight, 1151 Folsom, SF; www.eightsf.com. 9pm, \$8. Featuring two dance floors playing dance and hip hop, smoking patio, and 2 for 1 drinks before 10pm.

Go Bang! Deco SF, 510 Larkin St; (415) 346-2025. 10pm, \$5. Recreating the diversity and freedom of the 70's/ 80's disco nightlife with DJs Eddy Bauer, Flight, Nicky B., Sergio and more.

Look Out Weekend Vessel, 85 Campton; (415) 433-8585. 4-9pm, free. Drink specials, food menu and resident DJs White Girl Lust, Joe Bank\$, Swayzee, LL Cool DJ, and more.

M4M Fridays Underground SF. 10pm-2am. Joshua J and Frankie Sharp host this man-tastic party.

Punk Rock and Shlock Karaoke Annie's Social Club. 9pm-2am, \$5. Eileen and Jody bring you songs from multiple genres to butcher: punk, new wave, alternative, classic rock, and more.

Suite Jesus 111 Minna. 9pm, \$20. Beats, dance-hall, reggae and local art.

SATURDAY 1

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Build Them to Break, Hukaholix, Gutwrench Thee Parkside. 2pm, free.

"Club Feral" Thee Parkside. 9pm, \$5. With Shannon and the Clams, Hunx and His Punx, Terran Tromatics, and DJ Vinyl Abuser.

Dirty Power, Three Weeks Clean, Man's Red Fire Annie's Social Club. 9pm, \$8.

Colin Hay, Bhi Bhiman Independent. 9pm, \$31. **Heavenly States, French Miami, Railcars, 60 Watt Kid, Anderson Congress, Vitiligo** Café du Nord. 7:30pm, \$12.

Script, Angel Taylor Great American Music Hall.

9pm, \$15.

Sista Monica Biscuits and Blues. 8 and 10pm, \$20.

Stellastarr*, Wild Light, Mason Proper Slim's. 9pm, \$20.

Themselves, Odd Nosdam, Bre'r, Cloud

Archive Bottom of the Hill. 10pm, \$10.

True Margrit Revolution Café, 3248 22nd St, SF; (415) 642-0474. 11am, free.

Wild Breed, Wig Torture, Three Stoned Men, Clap Band, Pirate Band, Mensclub Hemlock Tavern. 6pm, \$7. Also with David Nudleman Solo, Smile God Loves You, and Natural Fonzie.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Ernestine Anderson and Her Trio with Ed Reed Yoshi's San Francisco. 7:30 and 10pm, \$25.

Audium 9 1616 Bush, SF; (415) 771-1616.

8:30pm, \$15.

Birth of Cool featuring Adam Theis and Marcus

CONTINUES ON PAGE 106 »

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MIRA COOK
NATE GRACE

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WARMER MILKS (LOUISVILLE)
LAKE MILLIONS ADV. TIX ON SALE

ROTFEST! 6PM \$7
WILD BREED
WIG TORTURE
THREE STONED MEN

CLAP BAND
PIRATE BAND
MENSCLUB
DAVID NUDLEMAN SOLO
SMILE GOD LOVES YOU
NATURAL FONZIE

JAPANDROIDS 9PM \$7
WEEKEND ADV. TIX ON SALE

IRON AGE 6PM \$5
MAMMOTH GRINDER
FOREIGN NATURE
SECRET PEOPLE

PUNK ROCK SIDESHOW 10PM, FREE
W/DJ TRAGIC & DUCHESS OF HAZARD

QUINTRON & MISS 9PM \$10
PUSSYCAT (NEW ORLEANS) ADV. TIX ON SALE
HANK IV
RATAS DEL VATICANO (MEXICO, SILTBREEZE)

SOFTSERV 9PM \$5
SABERTOOTH CAVITY
& THE FREE POP ARKESTRA

ZODIAC DEATH VALLEY 9PM \$6
IN THE DUST
HOTT DAXX

FLOATING GOAT 9PM \$7
LOZEN
CANYON CANYON

FRUSTRATIONS (DETROIT) EARLY SHOW 6PM \$5
TBA

BARBARA MANNING LATE SHOW 9:30PM \$7
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TUESDAY AUGUST 4 8PM \$10 (INDIE)
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MATTHEW HEMMINGSON, & ILLTRACKS
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MUSIC

**SAT/1
JAZZ/NEW MUSIC**
CONT>>

Shelby Coda 10pm.
Eric Kurtzrock Trio Ana Mandara, Ghirardelli
Square, 891 Beach, SF; (415) 771-6800. 8pm,
free.
Ricardo Scales Top of the Mark. 9pm, \$10.

FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Zigaboo Modeliste Red Devil Lounge. 9pm, \$12.

DANCE CLUBS

Bar on Church 9pm. Rotating DJs Foxxee, Joseph
Lee, Zhaldee, Mark Andrus, and Niuxx.
Debaser Knockout. 11pm, \$5. Wear your flannel
and get in free before 11pm to this party, where
DJ Jamie Jams and Emdee play alternative hits
from the 1990s.
Everlasting Bass 330 Ritch. 10pm, \$5-10. Bay
Area Sistah Sound presents this party, with DJs
Zita and Pam the Funkstress spinning hip-hop,
soul, funk, reggae, dancehall, and club classics.
Fire Corner Koko Cocktails, 1060 Geary; 885-
4788. 9:30pm, free. Rare and outrageous ska,
rocksteady, and reggae vinyl with Revival Sound
System and guests.
Gemini Disco Underground SF. 10pm, \$5. Disco
with DJ Derrick Love.
HYP Club Eight, 1151 Folsom, SF; www.eightsf.
com. 10pm, free. Gay and lesbian hip hop party,
featuring DJs spinning the newest in the top 40s
hip hop and hyphy.
Leisure Paradise Lounge. 10pm, \$7. DJs Omar,
Aaron, and Jet Set James spinning classic britpop,
mod, 60s soul, and 90s indie.
Rebel Girl Rickshaw Stop. 10pm, \$5.
"Electroindierockhiphop" and 80s dance party for
dykes, bois, femmes, and queers with DJ China G
and guests.
Saturday Night Soul Party Elbo Room. 10pm-
2am, \$5. DJs Lucky, Paul Paul, and Phengren
Oswald spin butt-shakin' '60s soul on 45.
So Special Club Six. 9pm, \$5. DJ Dans One and
guests spinning dancehall, reggae, classics, and
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SUNDAY 2

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Deerhoof, Abe Vigoda, Zach Hill, Death
Sentence: Panda Great American Music Hall.
 8pm, \$16.

Footfall Soursault, Astral, Space Waves Café
 du Nord. 8pm, \$10.

Lloyd Gregory Biscuits and Blues. 8pm, \$15.

Hirax, Wehrmacht, Voetsek, Scarecrow,
Insanity, DJ Rob Metal Dna Lounge. 4-
 10pm, \$18.

Japandroids, Weekend Hemlock Tavern. 9pm,
 \$7.

Spot 1019, Penelope Houston and the
Birdboys, Yard Sale Bottom of the Hill. 2pm, \$8.

BAY AREA

» **Sonic Youth, Awesome Color** Fox Theater.
8pm, \$35.50.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Ernestine Anderson and Her Trio with Ed Reed
Yoshi's San Francisco. 2 and 7pm, \$5-25.

Gregory James Quartet Café Royale, 800 Post, SF; (415) 441-4099. 7pm, free.

Lucid Lovers Harry's Restaurant, 2100 Van Ness, SF; (415) 673-1888. 6:30pm.

"SIMM New Music Series" Musicians Union Hall, 116 Ninth St. SF; (415) 905-4425. With Warren Johnston. 7:30pm, \$8-10. With Darren Johnster, Aram Shelton, Lisa Mezzacappa, and Kjell Nordeson (7:30pm) and Noertker's Moxie Chamber Ensemble (8:30pm).

FOLK/WORLD/COUNTRY

Devil's Own, Ian Shaul Thee Parkside. 4pm, free.
Kailash Kher's Kailasa, Delhi 2 Dublin Stern Grove Festival, Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat, SF; www.sterngrove.org. 2pm, free.
Manicato Coda. 9pm, \$7.

DANCE CLUBS

DiscoFunk Mashups Cat Club. 10pm, free. House and 70's music.
Dub Mission Elbo Room. 9pm, \$6. Dub, roots, and classic dancehall with DJ Sep, Vinnie

Esparza, and guest Selector Shockman.
Money Soundsystem Paradise Lounge. 8pm-2am. "Dance floor for dancers – sound system for lovers." Got that?
Jack! Lookout, 3600 16th, 431-0306. 3pm, \$2. This high-energy party raises money for LGBT sports teams.
Kick It Bar on Church. 9pm. Hip-hop with DJ Zax.
Religion Bar on Church. 3pm. With DJ Nikita.
Stag AsiaSF. 6pm, \$5. Gay bachelor parties are the target demo of this weekly erotic tea dance.

MONDAY 3

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Agnet Ribbons, Jel, Sister Crayon Elbo Room. 9pm, \$5.
Bowerbirds, Megafauna, Dame Satan Café du Nord. 7:30pm, \$12.
Iron Age, Mammoth Grinder, Foreign Nature, Secret People Hemlock Tavern. 6pm, \$5.
Reel Big Fish, English Beat, Supervillains Regency Ballroom. 8pm, \$27.
Nico Vega, Iglu and Hartly, Ian Fays Bottom of the Hill. 9pm, \$10.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Lavay Smith Trio Enrico's, 504 Broadway, SF; www.enricosf.com. 7pm, free.

Wild Magnolias Yoshi's San Francisco. 8pm, \$22.

DANCE CLUBS

Black Gold Koko Cocktails, 1060 Geary; 885-4788. 10pm-2am, free. Senator Soul spins Detroit soul, Motown, New Orleans r&B, and more — all on 45!

Going Steady Dalva. 10pm, free. DJs Amy and Tony spinning 60's girl groups, soul, garage, and more.

King of Beats Tunnel Top. 10pm. DJs J-Roca and Kool Karlo spinning reggae, electro, boogie, funk, 90's hip hop, and more.

Mainroom Mondays Annie's Social Club. 9pm, free. Live the dream: karaoke on Annie's stage and pretend you're Jello Biafra.

Manic Mondays Bar on Church. 9pm. Drink

80-cent cosmos with DJs Mark Andrus and Dangerous Dan.

Monster Show Underground SF. 10pm, \$5. Cookie Dough and DJ MC make Mondays worth dancing about, with a killer drag show at 11pm.

Moonshine Mondays Dalva. 4:30, free. DJ Blaze Orange spinning old honky tonk.

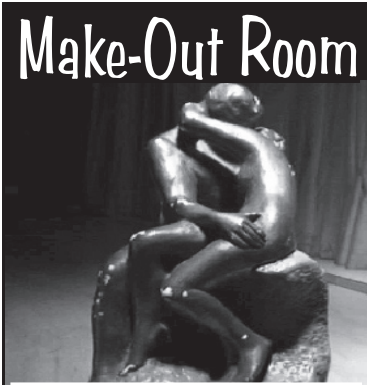
Network Mondays Azul Lounge, One Tillman Pl; www.inhouselatent.com. 9pm, \$5. Hip-hop, R&B, and spoken word open mic, plus featured performers.

Spiff Sessions Tunnel Top. 10pm, free. DJs MaKossa, Kung Fu Chris, and C. Moore spin funk, soul, reggae, hip-hop, and psychedelia on vinyl.

TUESDAY 4

ROCK/BLUES/HIP-HOP

Dalton, Farticus, Thirtythreeandathird Knockout.



WEDNESDAY JULY 29 7:30PM, \$7
ROMANE EVENT
A MONTHLY COMEDY SHOW

STAY GOLD 10:30PM, \$3
HELLA QUEER DANCE JAMS.
 WHITE HOT CRUISING AND SOLID GOLD
 MOVEMENT. DJ'S PINK LIGHTNING, RAPID
 FIRE (SUCKER PUNCH)
 AND SPECIAL GUESTS MONTHLY.
VOTED "BEST GIRLS' NIGHT OUT" 7X7 MAGAZINE!

THURSDAY JULY 30 7PM, NO COVER
HEY LADIES, HAPPY HOUR!
 W/ DJ CHOICE
 SPINS THE LADIES OF THE 80S
"WEB OF SOUND" 9PM
 W/ DJ JACKIE SUGARLUMPS & GUESTS
A MIX OF 60S PSYCH/FREAKBEAT/GARAGE/SOUL

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THE DISTRACTION FIT
BEN FROM THE TROPHY FIRE

EVERY FRIDAY AT 10PM \$5
"LOOSE JOINTS"
W/ DJS THOM THUMP
DAMON BELL & CENTIPEDE
FUNK/SOUL/HIPHOP/ AFRO-BEAT & MORE

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 7:30PM, \$7
ALRIGHT CLASS
GRAND LAKE

EVERY SATURDAY AT 10PM, \$5
EL SUPERRITMO
WITH ROGER MANS AND EL KOOL KYLE
CUMBIA/DANCEHALL/SALSA/HIP-HOP

MONDAY AUGUST 2
EVERY MONDAY AT 10PM NO COVER!
DIRTY NEEDLES
WITH DJ E-WRECK
PUNKSOULNEWWAVEDUBRAWBLUESREGGAE

TUESDAY AUGUST 3 NO COVER!
EVERY TUESDAY AT 9PM
LOST & FOUND
DEEP & SWEET 60'S SOUL 45'S
DJ'S LUCKY, PRIMO & FRIENDS
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10pm, free.
Dezarie Independent. 9pm, \$25.
Javier Dunn, Allen Stone, Emily Rath Hotel Utah. 8:30pm, \$10.
Elizabeth and the Catapult, Evening Empire Café du Nord. 8pm, \$10.
Rory Epoxy and the Rebound, Action Design, Tell-Tale Heartbreakers Thee Parkside. 8pm, \$8.
Alejandro Escovedo Bottom of the Hill. 8pm, \$20.
Nebula, Entrance Band, Kaura Elbo Room. 9pm, \$12.
Quintrón and Miss Pussycat, Hank IV, Ratás del Vaticano Hemlock Tavern. 9pm, \$10.
Sugaray Biscuits and Blues. 8pm, \$15.

JAZZ/NEW MUSIC

Dave Parker Quintet Rasselas Jazz. 8pm.
"Jazz Mafia Tuesdays" Coda. 9pm, \$7.
Ricardo Scales Top of the Mark. 6:30pm, \$5.
Terry Disley "Big" Experience Yoshi's San

Francisco. 8pm, \$16.

DANCE CLUBS

Alcoholocaust Presents Argus Lounge. 9pm, free. With DJ What's His Fuck, DJ Taypoleon, and DJ Scurvey Sam.

Drunken Monkey Annie's Social Club. 9pm-2am, free. Rock 'n' roll for inebriated primates like you.

Eclectic Company Skylark, 9pm, free. DJs Tones and Jaybee spin old school hip hop, bass, dub, glitch, and electro.

Mixology Aunt Charlie's Lounge, 133 Turk, (415) 441-2922. 10pm, \$2. DJ Frantik mixes with the science and art of music all night.

Rock Out Karaoke! Amnesia. 7:30pm. With Glenn Kravitz.

Womanizer Bar on Church. 9pm. With DJ Nuxx. **\$F8G**



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 –San Francisco Chronicle**

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 July 29, 30, 31, (8pm Only)
LEO KOTTCHE

tonight! **Wed, July 29, (10pm, Late Show)**
VALERIE TROUTT
& THE FEAR OF THE FAT PLANET CREW

this week! **Thurs, July 30, (10pm, Late Show)**
BROUN FELLINIS

this weekend! **Fri, July 31, (10pm, Late Show)**
JOE BAGALE

this weekend! **Sat, Sun, August 1, 2**
ERNESTINE ANDERSON
& HER TRIO
 with **ED REED TRIO**

next week! **Mon, August 3**
THE WILD MAGNOLIAS
 with **DJ Harry D**

next week! **Tues, August 4**
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ROY ROGERS
& THE DELTA RHYTHM KINGS

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 with special guest **Sacha Boutros**

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DWELE

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Tues, August 11
BUSTER WILLIAMS
& SOMETHING MORE
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Cindy Blackman & Bennie Maupin

Wed, Thurs, August 12, 13
MULGREW MILLER TRIO
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 & **Ivan Taylor** 

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Funny People

» **INTERVIEW** In anticipation of *Funny People*, about a friendship between a famous comedian (Adam Sandler) who falls ill and a seemingly hopeless rookie (Seth Rogen), I sat down with director Judd Apatow to discuss stand-up, life and death situations, and his early comedic influences.

SFBG This film is a total departure with a terminal illness thrown into the mix. What was your inspiration?

Judd Apatow I just wanted to write something that I cared about. I've seen too many people struggle with being seriously ill and a lot of times people get better, and it's not easy to take the wisdom that you suddenly have when you're sick and use it when you get a second chance. *Funny People* is all about how George (Adam Sandler) hits bottom when he gets sick and then he needs to hit bottom again to figure out how he wants to live the rest of his life.

SFBG Funny People centers on the stand-up circuit, your old stomping ground. Who were your comedic influences growing up?

JA There was [Jay] Leno and Jerry Seinfeld and Charles Fleischer. And for filmmakers, I loved all the Hal Ashby movies and Cameron Crowe and James Brooks. I like movies that make me laugh and cry or make me really feel something, and it's difficult to pull that off. That's something I'm trying to find more courage [to do] — to put more weight on the story and the emotions and at the same time try really hard to make these movies just as funny as a balls-out comedy. **(Laura Swanbeck)**

MORE AT SFBG.COM

Pixel Vision blog: Laura Swanbeck's complete Judd Apatow interview.

FUNNY PEOPLE opens Fri/31 in Bay Area theaters.

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Michelle Devereaux, Max Goldberg, Dennis Harvey, Johnny Ray Huston, Louis Peltzman, Lynn Rapoport, Ben Richardson, Jason Shama, and Matt Sussman. The film intern is Laura Swanbeck. For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock. For first-run showtimes, see Movie Guide. Due to early Best of the Bay deadlines, theater info was incomplete at presstime.

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The 29th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival runs July 23-August 10 at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro, SF; Cellspace, 2050 Bryant, SF; Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berk; CineArts @ Palo Alto Square, 3000 El Camino Real Bldg. Six, Palo Alto; and the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth St, San Rafael. Tickets (most shows \$12) are available by calling (415) 256-TIXS or visiting www.sjfjf.org. For schedule, see www.sfbg.com.

OPENING

Aliens in the Attic Kids on vacation fight off an interstellar invasion. (runtime not available)

The Answer Man Fond memories of Jeff Daniels as the disgruntled, rude, unsuccessful NYC writer in 2005's *The Squid and the Whale* might lure you

to this new dramedy with Daniels as a disgruntled, rude, successful Philadelphia writer. Two decades ago Arlen Faber (Daniels) had a ginormous international hit with *Me & God*, an inspirational tome in which he relayed the wisdoms purportedly whispered in his ear by, y'know, That Creator Guy. All these years later he still hasn't done a single personal appearance or interview, maintaining hermitlike anonymity, hiding his secret shame-slash-thorn-in-side: Arlen has no personal faith or serenity anymore, if he ever had them. He also has sporadic major back problems, which results in his meeting spunky struggling single mom Elizabeth (Lauren Graham). Her chiropractic office is a couple doors down from the (what else but) funky bookstore owned by Kris (Lou Taylor Pucci), who's depressed by his failing business, his father's alcoholism, and the post-rehab AA meetings he has to attend himself. When Kris accidentally discovers Arlen's identity, he black-mails the reluctant guru into giving him some life answers. Meanwhile, natch, Arlen rediscovers love via Elizabeth (practitioner-client ethics being nonexistent in movies). Writer-director John Hindman's debut feature is too timid to have any fun with its ripest potential — satirizing pop “spirituality” fads — and too generic to hit any inspired notes as comedy or romance. Both Kris and Elizabeth have ditz young female sidekicks; her son is a winsome li'l charmer; even the musical choices are treacly, trite, and predictable in

ways that scream “TV.” Taylor Pucci, at least, tries to give a non-caricatured performance of some depth, but his effort is wasted in a knee-jerk movie. (1:35) (Harvey)

The Collector A thief breaks into a booby-trapped mansion. Side note: *The Collector* is billed as being “from the writers of *Saw IV*, *V*, and *VI*.” Top-quality, y'all. (1:28)

Funny People Judd Apatow hopes to dive into the deep end with *Funny People*, a semi-autobiographical tale set around the stand-up comedy circuit and about Ira Wright (Seth Rogen), a bumbling amateur, and George Simmons (Adam Sandler), a famous comedian who suddenly discovers he's terminal. Faced with his own mortality — one problem he can't joke his way out of, George takes Ira under his wing, mentoring and helping him cultivate his routine. He also tracks down Laura (Leslie Mann), a lost love, and tries to repair their relationship. Although *Funny People* offers a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the pressures and price of stand-up and a diverting slew of celebrity cameos, it ultimately falls flat because Sandler doesn't possess the dramatic traction needed to convincingly pull off his character's evolution, and he and Apatow have trouble balancing cancer with comedy. Nevertheless, it is still an ambitious effort, especially since Apatow's specific brand of humor makes it difficult for him to venture into darker waters. He might alienate his frat boy fans by leaving the kiddie pool. *For an interview with Apatow, see pick box.* (2:20) (Swanbeck)

Lion's Den Stumbling out of bed in a stupor, Julia Zarate (Martina Gusman) doesn't recognize (or perhaps *refuses* to recognize) her bloodstained hands and the lifeless body in the next room over. That is the genius behind Pablo Trapero's stark, unflinching *Lion's Den* — he forgoes Hollywood transparency in favor of delicious ambiguity, never truly revealing whether Julia murdered her boyfriend or is simply a scapegoat. Regardless, she is convicted of the crime and transported to a maximum-security prison where she gives birth to Tomas (Tomás Plotinsky), and strikes up a relationship with fellow prisoner, Marta (Laura García). Caught between her son's promising life and her own dwindling future, Julia is devastated when her mother (Elli Medeiros) takes Tomas away. It's a dilemma of Brechtian proportions — should Julia keep her son or let him leave out of love? You may never know whether Julia's a killer, but with Gusman's volatile, spellbinding performance, you'll definitely recognize her as a lion when she explodes onto the scene after losing Tomas and rages into the night, clawing at the ties that bind. (1:53) *Sundance Kabuki.* (Swanbeck)

» **Shrink** Not exactly shooting for psychiatrist of the year, A-list shrink to the stars Dr. Henry Carter (Kevin Spacey) can often be found chain-smoking, curled into a fetal position, or nursing a bottle of booze. Witnessing his downward spiral, family and friends stage an unsuccessful intervention during which Carter reveals the truth behind his crippling depression. Numb to the world, he fills his days with sessions counseling the Hollywood elite, ranging from an aging actress (Saffron Burrows) to a neurotic and vindictive agent (Dallas Roberts) who could give Ari Gold a run for his money. Spurred on by his father, Carter reluctantly agrees to a pro bono case with patient Jemma (Keke Palmer), a withdrawn girl whose painful past may incidentally coincide with his own. Insightful, well-written, and witty, *Shrink* captivates with an uncharacteristically restrained performance by Spacey, a stand-out ensemble (including Jesse Plemons as a hilarious cannabis connoisseur), and a wasteland full of wayward Angelenos who gladly accept the smoke and the escape that both men offer. (1:44) (Swanbeck)

Thirst *Twilight* (2008) primed our pump with chaste kisses for vampire romance, *True Blood* went to third base with its fangs-out, pro-sex metaphor of vampirism-as-homosexuality, and now *Thirst* — which won the Jury Prize at this year's Cannes International Film Festival — takes the sex, drugs, and holy rollin' themes coursing through *True Blood* to alternately sublime and messy new levels. Priest Sang-hyun (Song Kang-ho of 2006's *The Host*) is both looking for answers to his own spiritual questions and new ways to heal others when he signs up as a guinea pig for an experimental vaccine project aimed at an Ebola-like virus. He's the only one of his kind to survive, thanks to a blood infusion that slowly transforms him into a vampire. His turning is sparked by the menstrual, repressed presence of an old friend's wife, Tae-ju (Kim Ok-vin), who's cloistered in the swampy, fluorescent-lit claustrophobia of her in-law's apartment. Applying the same cinephiliac care to his mis en scene as he did with *Old Boy* (2004), filmmaker Park Chan-wook

CONTINUES ON PAGE 120 »

SFBG
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8/14 Not Quite Hollywood



First-ever celebration of Australian genre cinema of the '70s and '80s.

8/28 Somers Town



Dramatic comedy from director Shane Meadows (*This Is England*).

9/25 Crude



Riveting documentary by Joe Berlinger (*Brother's Keeper*, *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*) follows a high stakes legal drama involving politics, environmentalism, corporate power, and the fate of disappearing indigenous cultures. Filmmaker Joe Berlinger in person at select shows.

10/16 The Horse Boy



Personal and epic spiritual journey follows a couple and their autistic son trekking through Outer Mongolia to treat his condition with shamanic healing. Rupert Isaacson in person at select shows.

10/23 Antichrist



Uncompromising psychological horror film from Lars von Trier (*Breaking the Waves*, *Dancer in the Dark*).

11/16 Visual Acoustics



Documentary celebrating the life and career of the world's greatest architectural photographer Julius Shulman. Narrated by Dustin Hoffman.

More variety on the Fall Movie Guide includes:

8/14 MAYA INDEPENDENT FILM SERIES

International films from emerging Latino filmmakers.

8/21 AFGHAN STAR

Documentary on Afghanistan TV's wildly popular American Idol-style series.

9/4 STILL WALKING

Japanese drama with gentle humor and wistful sorrow, from writer/director Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Nobody Knows*).

9/11 EARTH DAYS

Visually stunning, entertaining and awe-inspiring documentary on the dawn and development of the modern environmental movement. Filmmaker Robert Stone in person at select shows.

9/11 BEESWAX

Marvelous new film from writer/director Andrew Bujalski (*Funny Ha Ha*, *Mutual Appreciation*).

9/18 NO IMPACT MAN

Author Colin Beavan leaves behind his liberal complacency for a vow to make as little environmental impact as possible for one year in this documentary.

10/2 FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN

Thriller inspired by true events, starring Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt, directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel (*Downfall*).

10/9 CHELSEA ON THE ROCKS

Abel Ferrara (*King of New York*, *Bad Lieutenant*) takes a fascinating journey inside the walls, history and mythology of Manhattan's celebrated bohemian landmark, The Chelsea Hotel.

10/23 BIG FAN

From Robert Siegel, writer of *The Wrestler*, this drama of a self-described "world's biggest New York Giants fan" once again demonstrates a unique and potent vision of the human experience.

10/30 THE BEACHES OF AGNÈS

Agnès Varda (*Cleo From 5 to 7*, *Vagabond*, *The Gleaners and I*) presents her magnificent new film as a kind of cinematic autobiography.

Watch for the new Landmark Bay Area Movie Guides starting August 15. Find them at Landmark Theatres and many other locations around town.

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"A-!"

LISA SCHWARZBAUM,
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"A-!"

KEITH PHIPPS,
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ELIZABETH WEITZMAN,
NY DAILY NEWS

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PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE



A NEW COMEDY BY ARMANDO IANNUCCI

IN THE LOOP



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CAPALDI**

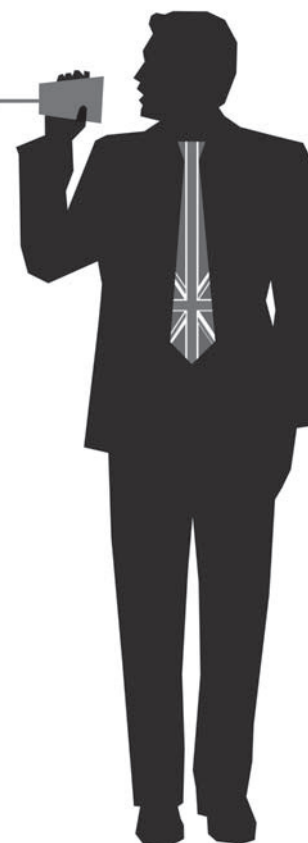
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HOLLANDER**

**GINA
McKEE**

**JAMES
GANDOLFINI**

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SCREENPLAY BY NICOLE EASTMAN AND KAREN MCCULLAH LUTZ & KIRSTEN SMITH PRODUCERS STEVEN REUTHER KIMBERLY DI BONAVENTURA DEBORAH JELIN NEWMYER PRODUCED BY TOM ROSENBERG GARY LUCCHESI DIRECTED BY ROBERT LUKETIC

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IT SIMPLY BLOWS YOU APART. BY THE TIME THIS REMARKABLE FILM COMES TO AN END, WE FEEL IT IN OUR SOULS."


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NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

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JULIE DREYFUS SYLVESTER GROTH JACKY IDO DENIS MENOCHET MIKE MYERS ROD TAYLOR MARTIN WUTTKE
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Special screening is taking place on Thursday, August 6th in San Francisco. Tickets are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. Limit one ticket (good for two) per person/household (no exceptions!) THIS FILM IS RATED PG-13. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE THEATRE IS OVERBOOKED TO ENSURE A FULL HOUSE. SEATING IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS, AND IS NOT GUARANTEED. All federal, state and local regulations apply. A recipient of prizes assumes any and all risks related to use of prizes, and accepts any restrictions required by prizes provider. Paramount Pictures, SF Bay Guardian, iFly SF Bay, 43KIX, Terry Hines & Associates and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Prizes cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, winner is unable to use his/her prizes in whole or in part. Not responsible for lost, delayed or misdirected entries. All federal and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Void where prohibited by law.

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THE COVE



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"The footage is staggering! Passionate, exciting and frightening."

—Bilge Ebiri, *New York Magazine*

"A cross between 'Flipper' and 'The Bourne Identity'."

—Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

"I would be surprised if it doesn't wind up being nominated in next year's Oscar race."

—Martin Grove, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Moves you, engages you, thrills you, enrages you."

—Laura David & Kelly Meyer, *The Huffington Post*

"Riveting...a classic espionage tale!"

—Peter Knegt, *Indiewire*

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—Scott Weinberg, *Cineomatic*

"Pure cinema. A paranoid thriller that demands to be seen."

—Justin Chang, *Variety*

"An astonishing work."

—Chris Knight, *National Post*

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—Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon*

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WRITTEN BY MARK MONROE EDITED BY GEOFFREY RICHMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JIM CLARK PRODUCED BY FISHER STEVENS + PAULA DUPRE PESMEN DIRECTED BY LOUIE PSIHOFOS



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GUARDIAN



Invite you and a guest to a special advance screening of THE COVE

on Tuesday, August 4
in San Francisco.

To enter, send an email to **promos@sfbg.com**

(subject line: SFBG THE COVE)

with the answer to the following trivia question:
In the classic TV show, what type of dolphin played "Flipper?"

Be sure to include your name and mailing address with your answer. Deadline for entries is 3PM, Friday, July 31.

Winners will receive passes through the mail. Each pass admits two people. Limit one pass per person/household. Passes are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Text-in to win a special grand prize:
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Entering with 43kix is free. Standard text message rates from your wireless provider may apply, check your plan.
One entry per cell phone number. Late and/or duplicate entries will not be considered.

This film is rated PG-13. Theatre is overbooked to ensure a full house. Passes received through this promotion do not guarantee admission and must be surrendered upon demand. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. EXCEPT FOR MEMBERS OF THE REVIEWING PRESS. No one will be admitted without a ticket or after the screening begins. All federal, state and local regulations apply. A recipient of tickets assumes any and all risks related to use of ticket and accepts any restrictions required by ticket provider. Roadside Attractions, San Francisco Bay Guardian, 43KIX, Terry Hines and Associates, SF Bay Whale Watching and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Tickets cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, winner is unable to use his/her ticket in whole or in part. Not responsible for lost, delayed or misdirected entries. All federal and local taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Void where prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Participating sponsors, their employees and family members and their agencies are not eligible. NO PHONE CALLS!

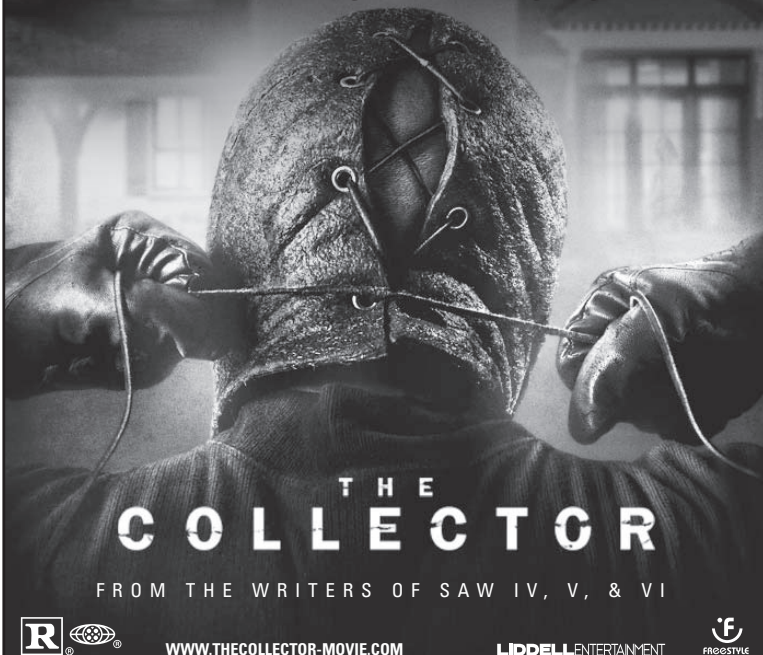
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TANNA FREDERICK'S PERFORMANCE
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-Nathan Southern, ALL MOVIE GUIDE

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Los Angeles Times
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OPENING

CONT>>

draws great performances from his leads — in particular Kim — while equating vampirism with new hungers for sexual freedom and existential meaning, a forbidden thirst for release from societal norms, and the addictive, parasitical stuff of raw desire and need. In the process of making a film that begs for a closer reading regarding the true blood ties between Korean culture and Christianity, Park seems to be following both the high-minded and pulpy impulses of his *Thérèse Raquin*-inspired tale wherever it takes him: into zones as recklessly slovenly as a new vampire glutting herself in a blood bath, as visceral as the slurping, squelching sounds of feeding time, and as suddenly shocking as a fish hook ripping off a waiting ear. (2:13) (Chun)

» **24 City** More than one hundred years after Louis Lumière made a movie of workers leaving his factory, Jia Zhangke recasts the same frontal image of bodies flowing out a workplace in *24 City*. Lumière documented his factory in thrall of life; if it now seems a ruin, it's because the image is beyond living memory. In Jia's latest masterpiece, by contrast, we watch as the factory is ruined *within* living memory. The touchstone image comes 40 minutes into *24 City*, when it's already clear that this scene of everyday life is soon to disappear. Once a secret state munitions plant which functioned as a city within the city of Chengdu, Factory 420 is being converted into a luxury apartment village. Following the jar-

ring order of change in China, some of the same workers who built the structure are now tearing it down. The film enters this passage as a site of memory, with Jia sweeping up documents, worker's songs and testimony into his beautifully composed narration. The film's much discussed documentary-fiction fission is only one aspect of a thicker braid of history and personal recollection that is compassionate as it is complex. (1:47) (Goldberg)

Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love If Senegalese singer and Sufi Muslim Youssou N'Dour thought that the holy month of Ramadan might prove an impediment to the release of *Egypt*, his new album in praise of Islam, he never expected the hurdles he would face after 9/11. Delaying the album for 3 years out of respect, N'Dour finally released it in 2004 to controversy in Senegal but critical acclaim abroad. Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi this intriguing documentary delves into N'Dour's family's roots up through his stirring performances to sold-out crowds at the Amnesty International Human Rights Now! Tour, Live 8 concerts, and Carnegie Hall. Hailed as one of Africa's most important musical and political voices, N'Dour candidly expresses his struggles as a singer and human right's advocate and how he believes that singing and religion are far from mutually exclusive. Though prolonged by indulging in too many concerts and close-ups of impressionable youth, *I Bring What I Love* is still a rich tapestry of inspiring music, political and social activism, and, moreover, a welcome affirmative presence in support of Islam. (1:50) (Swanbeck) **SFBG**

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absorbing!"**

-JEFFREY LYONS,
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**"INSPIRING! A STIRRING STORY
OF AN ARTIST AND A HERO."**
Jeffrey Lyons, NBC/REEL TALK

★★★★★
GIANT

"AN ELEGIAC, BEAUTIFUL FILM."
THE HUFFINGTON POST

**"A SINGER WITH A VOICE
SO EXTRAORDINARY
THE HISTORY OF AFRICA
SEEMS LOCKED INSIDE IT."**
RollingStone

**YOUSSOU N'DOUR
I BRING WHAT I LOVE**



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Schedules are for Wed/29–Tues/4 except where noted. Director and year are given when available. Double features are marked with a •. All times are p.m. unless otherwise specified.

ARTISTS' TELEVISION ACCESS 992 Valencia, SF; www.atasite.org. \$6. "Free Form Film Series: The Time of Space/The Space of Time," experimental film and video, Thurs, 8. "60s Free Jazz Revolt!," short films plus live music by Eastern Seaboard and Randy Lee Sutherland, Fri, 8.

BRIDGE 3010 Geary, SF; (415) 751-3213, www.peacheschrist.com. \$13. "Midnight Mass," *Showgirls* (Verhoeven, 1995), Fri-Sat, midnight.

CASTRO 429 Castro, SF; (415) 621-6120, www.castrotheatre.com. \$5-10. San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, Wed-Thurs. See film listings. "Rolling Thunder: The Films of Quentin Tarantino." •**Kill Bill Vol. 1** (2003), Fri, 7, and **Kill Bill Vol. 2** (2004), Fri, 9:10; **Reservoir Dogs** (1992), Sat, 2, 7; **Pulp Fiction** (1994), Sat, 4, 9; **Jackie Brown** (1997), Sun, 1:05, 6; **Death Proof** (2007), Sun, 4, 8:55. Call for Mon-Tues program info.

"FILM NIGHT IN THE PARK" This week: Old Mill Park, 300 block of Throckmorton, Mill Valley; (415) 453-4333, www.filmnight.org. \$3-6. **Iron Man** (Favreau, 2008), Fri, 8. Also: Dolores Park, Dolores and 19th St, SF; same contact and price. **Pretty in Pink** (Deutsch, 1986), Fri, 8.

PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE 2575 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-5249, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu. \$5-50-9:50. "Celebrating Italian Actors:" **La dolce vita** (Fellini, 1960), Wed, 7; **Mafioso** (Lattuada, 1962), Thurs, 8:15; **The Organizer** (Monicelli, 1963), Sat, 6:30; **I vitelloni** (Fellini, 1953), Sun, 5; **The Family** (Scola, 1987), Sun, 7:05. "Eccentric Cinema: Overlooked Oddities and Ecstasies, 1963-82:" **Chafed Elbows** (Downey, 1967), Thurs, 6:30; **Frank Zappa's 200 Motels** (Zappa, 1971), Sat, 9. "Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film:" **Cat People** (Tourneur, 1942), Fri, 7; **I Walked With a Zombie** (Tourneur, 1943), Fri, 8:30.

RED VIC 1727 Haight, SF; (415) 668-3994. \$6-9. **Stop Making Sense** (Demme, 1984), Wed, 2, 7:15, 9:15. **Star Trek** (Abrams, 2009), Thurs-Sat, 7, 9:35 (also Sat, 2, 4:20). **The Great Muppet Caper** (Henson, 1981), Sun-Mon, 7:15, 9:20 (also Sun, 2, 4). **The Hippie Temptation** (1967), Tues, 7:15, 9:15.

ROXIE 3117 and 3125 16th St, SF; (415) 863-1087, www.roxie.com. \$5-10. **Guest of Cindy Sherman** (Donahue and Hasegawa-Overacker, 2008), call for dates and times. **Until the Light Takes Us** (Aites and Ewell, 2008), July 31-Aug 6, call for times.

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS 701 Mission, SF; (415) 978-2787, www.ybca.org. \$8-10. **Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles** (Akerman, 1975), Sat, 1; Sun, 2. **SFBG**

**"★★★★★
COMPELLING!"**
David Fear, TIME OUT NEW YORK
STRAND RELEASING presents

A film by Pablo Trapero
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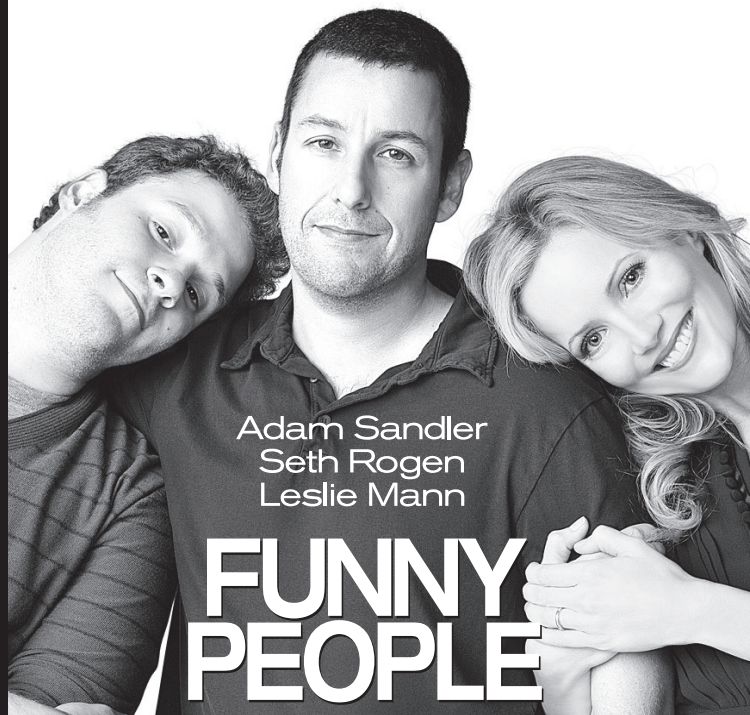
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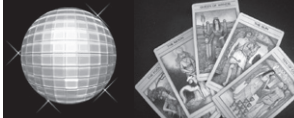
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0320907-00 The following person is doing business as **El Balazo SFO**1654 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. El Balazo SFO, INC (CA), 2061 Buena Vista Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date N/A. Signed Alma Sandoval. This statement was filed by Jeanette Yu on June 29, 2009. **#35229, July 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2009.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0320982-00 The following person is doing business as **Carolina Carpentry**, 1354 Florida St.,San Francisco, CA 94110. Hudson Cress 1354 Florida St. San Francisco CA, 94110. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date N/A. Signed Hudson Cress. This statement was filed by Magdalena Zevallos on July 1, 2009. **. July 29, Aug. 5, 12. 19**35504

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0320997-00 The following person is doing business as **FLOWER-HEAD**1670 Jerrold, San Francisco, CA 94124. Taryn Desmond, 3032 55th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 7/2/09. Signed Taryn Desmond. This statement was filed by Magdalena Zevallos on July 2, 2009. **#35228. July 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2009.**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE. Date of Filing Application: July 8, 2009. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: Yabbies Coastal Kitchen INC. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2237 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109-1841. Type of License Applied for: 41- ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE. Publication date: July 29, 2009 L#35504.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0321016-00 The following person is doing business as **26th & Guerrero INC.FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT** FILE NO. A-0321036-00 The following person is doing business as **Gnomie**, 1619 48th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. Aleks Petrovitch 1619 48th Ave., San Francisco CA, 94122. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 7/6/2009. Signed Aleks Petrovitch. This statement was filed by Marielyne L. Argente on July 6, 2009. **. July 29, Aug. 5, 12. 19**3504301

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0321121-00 The following person is doing business as **MY FAMILY'S CATERING SERVICE** 5 Cameron Way, San Francisco, CA. 94124. Stephanie Hughes, 5 Cameron Way, San Francisco, CA. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 07/09/09. Signed Stephanie Hughes. This statement was filed by Lena Lee on July 9, 2009. **#35229, July 15, 22, 29, & August 5, 2009.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0321306-00 The following person is doing business as **Conceptual Metalworks**, 1730 Yosemite Ave, San Francisco, CA 94124. Karen E. McKinley 3650 Judah St. #5 San Francisco CA, 94122. Dan M, Greenberg 3650 Judah St. #5 San Francisco CA., This business is conducted by a general partnership. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 03/17/00. Signed Karen McKinley. This statement was filed by Marielyne L. Argente on July 17, 2009. **#35501. July 22, 29, Aug. 8, 12.**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0321436-00 The following person is doing business as **3RD SPACES**, 540 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Michael Zuckerman, 1583 31st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 07-07-09. Signed Michael Zuckerman. This statement was filed by Maribel Jaldon on July 22, 2009. **#35230. July 29, August 5,12,&19, 2009.**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE. Date of Filing Application: July 1, 2009. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: Caliphonia Vietnamese Bistro INC. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1000 Clement St., San Francisco, CA 94118-2113. Type of License Applied for: 41- ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE. Publication date: July 29, 2009 L#35501.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE. Date of Filing Application: July 21, 2009. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: Taqueria Castillo B. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 86 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94102-3814. Type of License Applied for: 41- ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE. Publication date: July 29, 2009 L#35503.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE. Date of Filing Application: July 21, 2009. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: Taqueria Castillo B. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 10 Mason St., San Francisco, CA 94102-2806. Type of License Applied for: 41- ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE. Publication date: July 29, 2009 L#35502.

LEGAL NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT MICHAEL BECK: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 McAllister St. CA 94102. SUMMONS CASE NO. CGC08-476921- NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: MICHAEL BECK and Does 1-30. Inclusive YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: MARIA ASCARRUNZ EDUARDO and VICOPEX, S.R.L. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) or by contacting your local court or county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en este corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted puede usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que lo quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte quele de un formulario de ejercicio de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llama a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sito web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. The name and address of the court is Superior Court of California, San Francisco County 400 McAllister St, San Francisco, CA 94102. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney or plaintiff without an attorney, is Henry P. Canvel (SBN 144798); Pauline S. Self, (SBN 260429), GORDON & REES, LLP, 275 Battery Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94111. (415) 986-5900. (415) 986-8054. DATE June 30, 2008 SEAL; Gordon Park Li, Clerk by Cristina E. Bautista, Deputy. STATEMENT OF DAMAGES AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES TO DEFENDANT MICHAEL BECK. Plaintiffs: MARIA ASCARRUNZ EDUARDO and VICOPEX, S.R.L. seek damages in the above entitled action as follows 1.) \$43,000 with interest at the rate of 10% per year from November 10, 2004; 2) notice to DEFENDANT MICHAEL BECK Plaintiffs MARIA ASCARRUNZ EDUARDO and VICOPEX, S.R.L reserve the right to seek \$1,000,000.00 in exemplary/punitive damages against you when MARIA ASCARRUNZ EDUARDO and VICOPEX, S.R.L seek a judgment in the suit filed against you;; Other 3.) pre-judgment interest amount to be determined ; 4.) attorneys fees according to proof. Date July 13, 2009/s/ Henry P. Canvel (SBN 144798); Pauline S. Self, (SBN 260429), GORDON & REES LLP, 275 Battery St. Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94111. (415) 986-5900. Attorneys for Plaintiffs: MARIA ASCARRUNZ EDUARDO and VICOPEX, S.R.L

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW) FILE NO. FDI-09-770102 COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102. PETITION OF **Nancy D.K. Swickard summons of RESPONDENT John Ross Swickard**. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Nancy Swickard 2130 Fillmore St. #209, San Francisco, CA 94115 filed a petition with this court for a summons of respondent John Ross Swickard. Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Petitioner Nancy Swickard, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the Respondent John Ross Swickard cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in Article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or amended that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the Petitioner, therein and against the respondent and that the said Respondent John Ross Swickard is a necessary and proper party to the action. NOW, on motion of Nancy Swickard Pro Per or Attorney(s) for the Petitioner, IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons in this action be made upon said Respondent by publication thereof in San Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said Respondent; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or amended in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said Respondent , if his/her address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication On the fourth week of publication 28 days after the first publication is made, the Court shall acquire jurisdiction over said Respondent. Dated 7/16/09. Signed by Patrick J. Mahoney, Presiding Judge on July 16, 2009. Endorsed Filed, San Francisco County Superior Court of California on July 16, 2009 by Gordon Park-Li, Clerk. **July 22, 29 Aug. 8, 12, 2009. 35502**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. A-0320910-00 The following person is doing business as **Glow Skin Care Studio** , 2354 Taraval St. San Francisco, CA 94116. Tracy Yi Zhou, 2519 42nd Ave, San Francisco, CA 94116. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on the date 06/29/09. Signed Tracy Yi Zhou. This statement was filed by Maribel Jaldon on June 28, 2009. **#35501. July 8, 15, 22 & 29.**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE Date of Filing Application: May 5, 2009. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: GLOBAL TOUCH LLC. The applicant listed above are applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2001 CHESTNUT ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94123-2701 Type of license Applied for: 47- ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE **July 29, August 5, 12, & 19, 2009 L# 35229**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTYNotice is hereby given pursuant to terms and provisions of California Civil Code Section 1988, public sale by competitive bidding of abandoned & unclaimed property from former room of K.M. Fletcher, 1222 Naples St. hereinafter described. Said sale takes place in the front of 1222 Naples St. SF 94112 on Sat. August 15, 2009. Inspect items at 12pm. Sale begins at 12:30 PM. Property includes but not limited too: table, bed, mattress, TV, clothes, Cd's, books, DVDs, misc.kitchen items, microwave, chairs, luggage, art, seat & ottoman, drawers, shelf, ceramics & more. Goods sold as is, no warranty. Cash only & paid at time of sale. Items must be removed immediately. Anyone may bid. Published dates 7/29 & 8/5

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME The following person have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: 26TH & Guerrero Market. Located at: 1400 Guerrero St. San Francisco, CA 94110 . The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco under File# 2008 0314885 on: 12/05/2003. NAME AND ADDRESS OF REGISTRANTS (as shown on previous statement): Raouf Nasser, 981 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed Raouf Nasser. Dated: July 3, 2009, Janette Yu, Deputy County Clerk. **July 8, 15, 22 & 29 2009 L#35503**

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122 SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN | JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 2009

connections

> women seeking men

LOVE TO TRAVEL

Attractive, petite SAF, 58, financially/emotionally stable, landscape designer, likes reading, travel, classical music, working out. Seeking a male, 55-65, 6'+, dynamic, energetic, honest, sincere. No drama or baggage. LTR. [✆270631](#)

SEEKS SPANISH MAN

SAF, 37, N/S, looking for SHM, 29-40, for conversation, going out together and more. [✆288028](#)

THE RIGHT ONE

SBF, attractive, N/S, possibly looking for LTR. Loves music, dancing, movies, wine, candlelight, just hanging out, enjoying life, You; single, well-groomed, diverse in thought, mature, N/S, wine drinker, open-minded, caring, employed, preferably 35-45, in the vicinity of San Francisco. [✆223895](#)

COLLEGE FEMALE...

22, seeking a man, 20-30 something, who is romantic and thoughtful, to get to know and possibly start a long-term relationship. [✆315227](#)

DOMINANT ATTITUDE

Full-figured black lady with huge butt, in wheelchair, seeks hungry, submissive W/AM, 25-70, for female worship, mutually beneficial arrangement, fantasy fulfillment, adult toy play. [✆851838](#)

DYNAMIC LADY

Female, 62, 5'5", blonde/blue, N/S, energetic, enjoys anthropology, music, art, museums, nature walks, the outdoors, hiking, discussions about politics, economics and the enigma of life. Seeking man for friendship, maybe more. [✆434857](#)

HI!

SWF, 55+, would like to meet a nice, handsome man. I'm into music, metaphysics, big smiles, and spiritual values. Non-smokers, please. And it would be nice to talk to you. Thanks for calling and have a great day! [✆298476](#)

COMPANIONSHIP WANTED

Latin-American lady 60s, petite, slim, nice-looking, brown/brown, caring, college-educated, independent, US citizen. Loves museums, historical sights, travel, and delightful conversations. Seeking Irish-descendant, Catholic gentleman, 70+, to share life with. [✆861416](#)

ARE WE A MATCH?

SWF, 41, 5'8", looking for SM, 38-48, N/S, for friendship first possibly leading to more. I love curvy dishes, the arts, nature, writing. [✆293630](#)

SINGER SEEKS TRUE HARMONY

Petite, fit, attractive, passionate female, youthful 60-years young, UCSC graduate, sensitive, natural, open-minded, 60s influence, peacenik, into music, yoga, healthy lifestyle, cuddling, laughter. Seeking similar tobacco-less male, for friendship first, who desires LTR. San Francisco. [✆274570](#)

GET TO KNOW ME

Outdoorsy, easygoing female, 40s, into healthy living, into camping, music, working out, dancing, biking, travel, going for long drives, hiking and culture. Hoping to meet an outgoing, fun man, 40-50, for friendship and dating, possibly leading to more. [✆297207](#)

SEEKING SWM

Sexy, attractive SBF, 51, BBW, professional writer, applying to law school, seeks SWM, 30-70, who is professional, emotionally/financially secure. [✆298795](#)

TAKE CONTROL

Middle-aged female looking for a dominant, sincere guy who likes to take control. The older I get, the stronger my desire to satisfy my man is! [✆300031](#)

BUSY SANTA CRUZ GRANDMOTHER

Attractive WiWF, long blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, 5'7". Lives in Santa Cruz works part time in the San Jose area. Wishes to meet an educated, honest, caring gentleman, for movies, music, travel. Friendship first. [✆965249](#)

EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL

WF, 48, interested in meeting an educated PWM, 40-54, to share friendship and possibly more with. [✆301522](#)

TAKE A TASTE

SBF, 160lbs, looking for hungry, mature, discreet man. You like to eat? Well, I want to be eaten. Try this hot, spicy brown sugar. [✆301677](#)

ENERGETIC

Tall, attractive woman, just turned 65, looks ten years younger, East Coast origins, seeks mate, 50-70. I'm self-employed in the artistic field and love nature, music. Avid reader, devoted friend. Want to go for a walk? [✆302310](#)

CALL ME!

SF, 235lbs, brown/blue, likes shopping, going out for lunch, amusement parks. Seeking similar male for possible relationship. [✆305897](#)

NO GAMES

SBF, 39, HIV+, seeks single guy, late 30s, HIV+, who wants a real lady in his life. [✆308082](#)

TAURUS SEEKS CANCER

SWF, 40, 115lbs, 5'3", blonde/blue, N/Drugs, N/D, into jazz, culture, animals, road trips. Seeking hilarious, obnoxious, loyal SM, 37-45, for LTR. [✆308836](#)

STERN BLACK NUNS

Sisters of the order of St. Dominadora. Seeks submissive repair man as boy toys, cross-dressers can work in drag. Surrender to a higher Female Power. [✆809149](#)

BLUE-EYED BLONDE

Very attractive SF, takes excellent care of herself, blessed with excellent health, enjoys fine dining, concerts, theater, sunsets, candlelight dinners, long walks, the ocean, travel. Seeking gentleman, early-mid 60s, successful, classy, very selective gentleman. [✆318477](#)

A LOT TO OFFER

Friendly, shy, caring, honest SF optimistic, with good values, enjoys dining, travel, coffee shops. Seeking SM, 45-55, for friendship and dating. [✆289505](#)

LET'S MEET SOON!

Feminine SF, caring, bright, optimistic, seeks SM, 45-53, for casual dating. Interests: camping, dining out, hiking, dancing, walking and more. [✆293599](#)

PERSONABLE AND HONEST

Caring, artistic, outgoing, classy woman, 50s, really enjoys museums, dining out, travel, music, reading, the beach and much more. Would like to meet a like-minded male, 40-59, who shares my interests. [✆297201](#)

SEEKING LTR

Classy, intelligent, down-to-earth, honest, friendly SF, 50s, enjoys taking walks, watching tv, coffee shops, hiking, reading, travel, dining out and keeping fit. Want to meet an active, outgoing man, in his fifties, to share good conversation, quiet times and more. [✆297204](#)

WELL-ROUNDED WOMAN

Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, caring SF, 40s, shy at first, homebody with good values, likes music, dancing, watching tv, walks, reading, hiking, going out occasionally and camping. Looking for an interesting man, 40-50, with similar traits, for LTR. [✆297206](#)

WORTH THE CALL

Artistic, intelligent, feminine, interesting SF, 40s, enjoys music, the beach, dancing, tv, museums, travel and more. Looking for SM, 40-59, to share these interests with. [✆297209](#)

SEXY BLONDE

Blue-eyed baby boomers, 5'2", 126lbs, suddenly back on the market after 13 years! I'm fun and funny with a smile on my face and a love for life! [✆299436](#)

> men seeking women

HELLO LADIES

Married male, 48, brown hair, green eyes, 5'7", seeks petite married white, Hispanic, Asian lady, 30-50, for discreet sensual fun. Hope to hear from you. [✆775819](#)

SEEKING STAR LADY

Tall, successful SWPM, 47, Scorpio, college grad, good sense of humor, affectionate, seeks sweet, smart, attractive A/WF, 35-55, for romance and LTR. [✆230241](#)

CAN YOU SMILE?

SWM, 5'10", 150lbs, longish brownish hair, positive person, fairly fit, outdoorsy, N/S, N/Drugs, vegetarian, not into drama, seeks similar SWF, 18-42. [✆298098](#)

LONELY HM...

54, 155lbs, healthy, non-smoker, disease-free, looking for that special someone, 20-70, single or married, who is tired of being alone, for mutually beneficial relationship, fantasy fulfillment, and more. [✆318602](#)

CALL ME

Good-looking SHM looking for a mature woman, 40-50, who knows what she wants and likes to have fun. [✆318127](#)

READY AND WAITING

Horny WM stud, 34, looking for Latin, Asian or white women, 18-45, who are into anal and oral pleasure. [✆317867](#)

SENIOR MALE

Fit, nice-looking SWM, late 60s, 165lbs, enjoys horses, theater, very sexual, seeks small fit, senior lady who still enjoys sex. Race open. [✆314760](#)

LOVE CLASSIC CAR?

WM likes most kinds of movies, travel, working on cars, hiking, music, dining out. Looking for a AF, 18-50, who has similar interests. [✆316968](#)

LONELY MEXICAN IN SEARCH OF...
that special someone. 33-year-old security officer, working nights, sweet, kind, caring, responsible, honest, seeks attractive, compassionate, loving, understanding, tolerant single female, 25-49, for dating. If we are compatible, we'll take it from there. Must live within the Bay area peninsula. [✆298104](#)

FUN TO BE WITH

SWM, 28, 6', 180lbs, brown/brown, light smoker, likes cooking, films. Looking for a woman, 18-45, with good sense of humor. [✆287256](#)

LET'S KISS

SAM, 32, looking for hot, sexy lady, around 35, who is clean and loves pleasure. [✆287309](#)

HONEST & EASYGOING

SWM, N/S, good sense of humor, no children, likes surfing, the outdoors, hiking, sports. Seeking attractive SF, 18-44, to be with. [✆304406](#)

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OR RESPOND BY CREDIT CARD, CALL 1-877-337-3292
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VERY OUTGOING

Male, 5'11", black/green, athletic build, likes travel, having fun, long drives and lots of other activities. Looking for an honest, outgoing woman to explore. [✆305492](#)

IN SEARCH OF FULL-FIGURED...

cute BF, 27-50, who likes to have fun. Doesn't matter if you have children or not. I'm a BM, 43, who would like to meet you. [✆305365](#)

LOOK NO FURTHER

SHM, 45, 5'8", likes beaches, movies. In search of meeting a SHF, 33-46, for friendship, maybe more. [✆308710](#)

LET'S TALK

SWM, 6', green eyes, N/S, Polish-American, looking for SF, 27+, who can make me laugh! [✆308861](#)

RENAISSANCE GENTLEMAN...

seeks slim, energetic, dominant, controlling Renaissance woman, 55-77, for secure, permanent relationship. Call, let's talk! [✆308980](#)

LET'S TALK!

Employed SWM, 28, 5'10", 250lbs, brown eyes, N/S, wants to meet a SW/BF, late 20s, N/S, who is ready for a relationship. [✆308573](#)

YOUNG AND FUN!

Goal-oriented, hard-working, honest, compassionate male, 20s, likes shopping, tv, coffee shops. Looking for similar female, 22-29, for LTR. [✆309247](#)

INTERESTING AND OUTDOORSY

SM, 50s, friendly, good-looking, caring, hardworking, health-conscious, likes walks, music, reading, museums, ancient civilizations, hiking, camping, psychic phenomena, the beach, dancing, travel and much more. Looking for a witty, educated, open, attractive woman, 30-60, to spend time with, possibly leading to LTR. [✆309254](#)

CALL ME NOW

Mature WM, 6', 175lbs, easygoing, educated, versatile, non-judgemental, in search of like-minded Italian lady for stress relief as you like it at my place. N/S, N/D. [✆309149](#)

SHARE MY LIFE

BM, 58, 5'6", enjoys music, the beach, going for drives, being out and about. Seeking vivacious lady, 18-65. [✆310717](#)

ISO VOLUPTUOUS WOMAN

SM, 27, from the East Bay, looking for a voluptuous woman, 25-50, to have some casual fun with and have a good time. I am attached so it must be discreet. [✆304953](#)

SEEKING FRIEND

Bilingual SHM, 51, lovable, 5'9", 195lbs, clean, no drugs, wanting serious, affectionate relationship with warm-hearted, happy woman, 20-56. Call me! [✆202389](#)

WE MUST MEET ASAP

Blond-haired, blue-eyed carpenter, 6', would like to get together with a SW/HF, 19-39. Let's meet and talk, see what happens! [✆312090](#)

SATISFACTION

Male looking for some women who want to be satisfied. Let's meet for dinner or a movie and see what happens next! [✆312742](#)

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

In meeting an accountant type, don't waste your time. This is a fun-loving, audacious, devilish man for all seasons, 62, 6', 210lbs, graying brown hair, sexy brown eyes, New York accent, still attractive, seeks youthful, attractive, mature woman, 40-60, 5'-5'8", no kids at home, H/W proportionate, N/S, with no baggage. [✆313406](#)

> men seeking men

STRIP NAKED

Clothed, masculine, fit guy gives you orders and gets you on your knees. Safe, painless roleplay fun for trim-waisted guys born after 1960. [✆753246](#)

MAGIC FINGERS

WM, looking for WM, 22-65, who likes watching sports, going to movies, dining out, mutual massage and great stimulation. [✆290536](#)

MARIN AREA

BiWM, in Marin, handyman and artist, 51, 5'6", 180lbs, good-looking, seeks buddy in Marin, let's talk! [✆264067](#)

PLEASE ME

WM, late 50s, loves receiving oral, looking for men, 40+, who love giving. Discreet, at your place. [✆297636](#)

SAFE PLAY

Married BiWM, 50, clean, safe, discreet, D/D-free, versatile, seeks H/W proportionate, clean, safe, discreet male, 35-55. [✆301773](#)

BOY NEXT DOOR

Very shy SWM, 33, 157lbs, brown/brown, clean-cut, has a wild side that he wants to explore. Seeking male, 18-57, to test my limits! [✆301779](#)

VERY ATTRACTIVE WM...

45, looking to roleplay. Top or bottom. Love to play dress-up in lingerie. Want to join me? [✆302014](#)

COME PLEASE ME

HM looking for two men to give me oral and maybe do more. If interested, give me a call. [✆305410](#)

FOREIGN, NON-WHITE

Friendly, open-minded WM is looking to meet another slim guy of a different country or race, 18-48, for friendship and intimate fun. [✆753256](#)



SEEKING MISS RIGHT

SWM, 40, looking for SH/WM, 30-55, for friendship first, possibly more. Want to meet? Call me back! [✆308429](#)

CURIOUS

SBM, 190lbs, bi-curious, N/S, likes swimming, reading, travel. Seeking well-endowed male, 19-78. Call me, help me explore my curiosity! [✆308557](#)

CRAVING AFFECTION?

Slender, masculine SWM, 45, N/S, seeks similar man, 20-45, race open, who would like a caring new friend to talk to and hold on to. [✆862331](#)

FREE MESSAGE

Strong-handed, straight-acting SWM, 45, offers a soothing, sensual touching experience for trim, masculine man, 18-47. [✆860940](#)

ORAL SUBMISSION

Tight-bodied DM, 43, wants a tight-bodied, married, bi guy to strip me and tell me what to do to make you feel good all over. [✆877130](#)

STRAIGHT OR BI WANTED

Easygoing, slim guy, 44, seeks masculine, safe, discreet guy, with slim body, who would like to get together for one or more erotic sessions. [✆897273](#)

ORAL

WM, 62, 5'9", 170lbs, smoker, gives oral to mature and discreet men, including senior citizens. [✆778621](#)

NAKED FANTASIES?

Strip search? Photography? Strip poker? Or you name it! WM, 45, slender body, straight-acting, looking for the same, under 45, for safe role play fun. [✆891177](#)

LEAN AND MUSCULINE

friendly, mellow SWM, 44, would like ongoing friendship/relationship with another man similar in age, who's lean and masculine. I enjoy films, hiking and intimacy. [✆886605](#)

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Seeking one man to love and care for completely and forever. Me: SBM, 50ish, affectionate, supportive, genuine, lots to offer. You: just be yourself, imperfect, mature older man, 70-90, with some humor, some laughter. Are you the one? [✆296673](#)

NAKED IN THE SHOWER

Slender, masculine WM, 45, seeks similar man, under 45, any race, who'd enjoy good clean fun with warm water and bar of soap. [✆863423](#)

> women seeking women

WELL-ROUNDED

BF likes movies, dancing, music, singing and more. Would like to meet a woman, 23-45, who enjoys the same things. [✆318193](#)

HONESTY A MUST

SBF, 39, 5'9", mother, enjoys boat rides, dining out, bowling, laughter, having a good time. Seeking open-minded SF, 33-53, with similar interests. [✆299777](#)

CLASSY, ATTRACTIVE

GBF, 26, 5', 130lbs, petite yet curvy, smooth chocolate complexion, curly black hair, mentally/physically/financially stable, open-minded, down-to-earth, independent, compassionate, natural-born leader, enjoys stimulating conversation, travel, art, music, film. Seeking similar stud woman, classy, attractive, open-minded, educated. [✆300954](#)

CITY GIRL...

wants to play! Lots of energy and born to satisfy! WF, 43, 5'9", seeks SWF, over 35. [✆307991](#)

> three's company

PLEASURE FOR BOTH

WM, 6'5", 210lbs, slender, N/S, D/D-free, seeks couple for intimate, pleasurable times. Oral for you. I love to please. [✆290906](#)

SEEKING PARTY GIRL

Couple looking for sexy, fun, hot, open-minded lady who is ready to have fun. Are you real, open-minded, drama-free and down for anything? [✆294854](#)

WM SEEKS BLACK COUPLE

SWM, mid 40s, enjoys watching movies. Interested in meeting a black couple, up to 40, H/W proportionate, for fun times together. [✆295187](#)

BIM SEEKS COUPLE

I'll please you foils, but you don't have to please me! Interested in incorporating a BiM into your kinky times? Give me a call! [✆300456](#)

INTERESTED?

Male, 40, 5'8", 175lbs, blond, surfer look, would like to meet a couple to spend a lot of time with, indoors and out. [✆303920](#)

> tv/ts

TRANSSEXUAL SLAVES

Male, 6'1", blond hair, nice body, wants to become a slave for a transsexual. Spank me and make me yours! [✆300076](#)

> friends/activities

SEEKING LADY FRIEND

Married male looking for lady friend for walks, meeting for coffee, and more. Friendship only. [✆300798](#)

> kinksters

DADDY SEEKS DAUGHTER

...for playful punishment when bad and thrilling, fulfilling sex when good. I'm a WM, hung, in great shape, expert spanker. Weight, race, legal age, marital status open. [✆318745](#)

MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

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Unfriends with benefits

By Andrea Nemerson
 andrea@mail.altsexcolumn.com

Dear Andrea:

Back in my wild and crazy early 20s, I met a beautiful man through his 17-year-old brother. The brother asked him to buy cigarettes, so without really investigating, I assumed this guy was at least 18. That evening, we hooked up and began a whirlwind romance. A few days later, I received a lecture from the 17-year-old about how I really shouldn't be messing around with his baby brother. To my horror, turns out the person I'd already had a bunch of sex with and was now holding hands around town with was many years my junior. It turned into small town high drama when we refused to stop dating and, to make a long story short, he turned out to be one of my favorite people, the best ex I ever had, and I find my life was enriched by the time I spent with him. Sadly, I am still subjected to pedophile/cradle-robbing jokes almost 15 years later, but what can you do?

Anyhow, we lost touch for over a decade until, of course, the miracle of Facebook. We chatted a few times, then I invited him to a party on Events, never thinking he'd come. Lo and behold, the party night I open my door to find him and his wife standing there, holding my favorite beverages from over a decade ago. He's got many kids now and we've both had a hell of a life since. Our friendship is reunited and I won't lose him again. Facebook rules!

Love,
 Young Love

Dear Young:

Well, you did rob the cradle! It's of interest to me, although surely fodder for a different column, that what you did would be met with nearly universal disgust and outrage had the genders been flipped. Instead, a story like yours usually earns mostly giggles and expressions of fake scandalization (see cradle-robbing and even pedophile jokes), and since apparently the boy's friends knew back when you were robbing his cradle that he was hooking up with a mature, experienced woman maybe 10 years older than he was, I'm assuming he was the object of much envy and "way-to-go!" back-slapping. Of course, in your case, it really does sound like both an innocent mistake (at first!) and a good time for all. Even so, it still worries me a bit, in retrospect.

A 15-year-old can give consent, and yours surely did, but I don't like the automatic assumption that sex with a much older partner is harmless fun for boys and, essentially, rape for girls. It can't be true all the time, in either direction. And that's not

even touching on sex between willing but vulnerable teenage boys and much older, predatory men. I've seen the results of that, and they are often not very nice. I'd like to see teenagers counseled to trust their own instincts and say no until they are quite sure they want to say yes, and then treated with respect for their choices. In an age of both anti-teen-sex hysteria and the mass promotion of teenage sex objects, that is not what we're getting, though, is it?

Oops. I guess I didn't save that rant for another column. Sorry! where were we, again?

Your long-ago affair sounds wacky (How could you not know? Did you think he was the older brother?) but ultimately quite fulfilling for all. I'm sure his wife is glad for his early tutelage. I'm glad you were glad to see each other. I'm glad you wrote. We're all glad, hurrah.

Love,
 Andrea

Dear Andrea:

I have one. I think. "James" and I were friends in college, and also sometimes hooked up, and then would go back to being just friends again. I did hope back then that we would end up together eventually, but he always squirmed out of it, which hurt. After school, we lost touch. Now with Facebook, I saw him show up in the "friends" of another college friend and got in touch and he seemed happy to hear from me. We're both divorced, and living about an hour and a half apart. Should I ... ?

Love,
 Friendly

Dear Friend:

Well, that depends. Back when you were doing the friend with benefits thing, how much of a shit was he being about it? As I've said before, the FWB arrangement can be a mutual satisfaction device like no other, or an instrument of torture. What if one "friend" gets attached and the other continues to pull up pants and say "see ya!" and shrug off any pleas for more time, care, or affection, since after all, we're all just friends here? That's your shit for you. So which one was he? Shit/not shit, and if shit, has he outgrown it yet?

If you do meet, you can always tell him that his actions caused you pain and see how he takes it. That should work as a shitometer, I'd think. If he laughs you off, unfriend, unfriend!

Love,
 Andrea

See Andrea's other column at carnalnation.com.



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